

Geo. Edward Pickett Chapter
Env'd, Ala

LIFE
OF
GENERAL
STAND WATIE



BY

Mabel Washbourne Anderson

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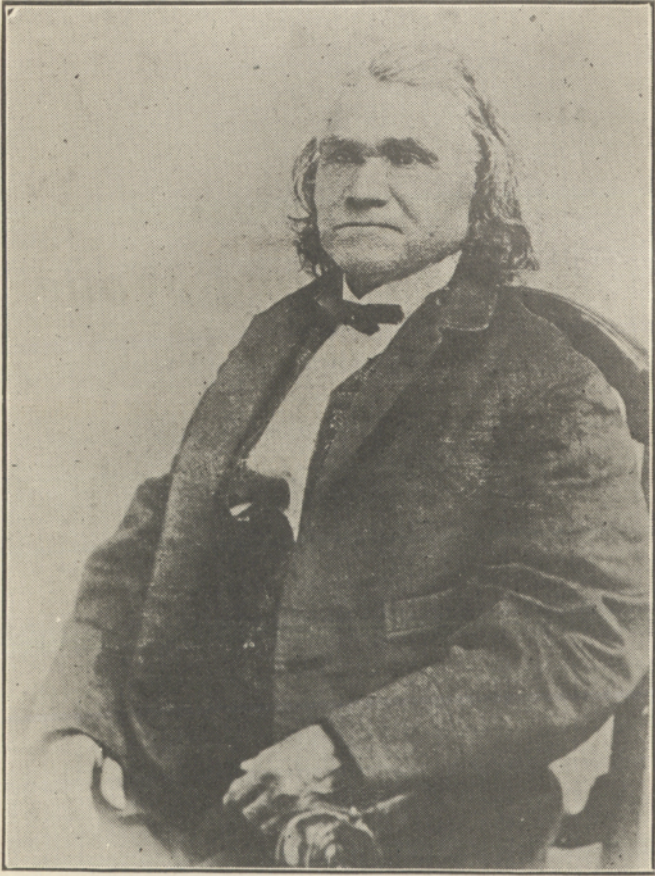
BY MABEL W. ANDERSON.

CHAIRMAN GEN. STAND WATIE MONUMENT COMMITTEE

PRYOR, OKLAHOMA

Life of
General Stand Watie

The only Indian
Brigadier General
of the
Confederate Army
and
The Last General to Surrender.



Stard Watson -

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C. S. A.

Do we weep for the heroes who died for us,
 Who living were true and tried for us,
 And dying sleep side by side for us;

The Martyr-band
 That hallowed our land
 With the blood they shed in a tide for us?

Oh! fearless on many a day for us
 They stood in the front of the fray for us,
 And held the foeman at bay for us;

And tears should fall
 For e'er o'er all
 Who fell while wearing the gray for us.

How many a glorious name for us,
 How many a story of fame for us
 They left; would it not be a blame for us

If their memories part
 From our land and heart,
 And a wrong to them and a shame to us?

But their memories e'er shall remain for us,
 And their names, bright names, without stain for us:
 The glory they won shall not wane for us,

In legend and lay
 Our heroes in gray
 Shall forever live over again for us.—Father Ryan.

INTRODUCTION

**To the Memory
of**

**Major and John Ridge and other signers
of the treaty of 1835, and to the brave
veterans, both living and dead, who
fought under Stand Watie, this bio-
graphy is affectionately
dedicated**

INTRODUCTION

It is impossible to write a biography, however brief, of Gen. Watie, who was so intimately associated with the Cherokees, during a most turbulent and interesting period of their history, without touching upon contemporary events and contemporary men that helped to influence and to mould his destiny.

All the world admires a brave man, but the world both admires and loves a brave, good man. Here is one whose honor and integrity were above reproach, who performed during the war of 1861 to '65 many acts of bravery, patriotism and self sacrifice, any one of which would have made his name immortal. But for lack of a herald to proclaim it to the world the name and history of Gen. Stand Watie remain practically unknown outside his native country and his own immediate people.

It is a matter of regret that some one of the many who were familiarly associated with the life of Gen. Watie, did not write his biography shortly after his death, for there is very little printed matter to aid one in a work of this kind and that little is not easily obtained.

Ever actuated by the desire to have this "Life Sketch" as authentic as possible, the author has spent months gathering material from living lips. Only those were consulted who were in position to verify all information given. In almost every instance living participants have been consulted who took part in every battle and skirmish mentioned. This has been a long slow work, fraught with many delays and difficulties. Any corrections or interesting additions will be gratefully received.

Especial thanks and appreciation are given to Judge J. M. Keys of Pryor, Col. James Bell of Bernice, Hoolie Bellof Vinita, and other Oklahoma veterans who so kindly helped with material for this work.

This little booklet was written with a three-fold purpose.

To pay a long neglected tribute to this great Indian character of Oklahoma.

To awaken a public interest in the noble work the Oklahoma Division of the Daughters of the Confederacy has undertaken, that of erecting a lasting monument to his memory.

To stimulate in the minds of the student body of Oklahoma a greater desire for a more careful study of the early history of the Cherokees and other Indians of Oklahoma and the men who made that history possible.

If it will in a measure fulfill any one of these missions the author will feel amply repaid.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE AND CONTEMPORARY CHEROKEE HISTORY.



LONG years ago in the Old Cherokee Nation in Georgia, there were born two full-blood Cherokee brothers, known to their tribe as, "Gah-na-tah-tle-gi" and "OO-wa-tee".* The older brother early gave promise, which he fulfilled, of becoming a great warrior and Council Chief of his people. The white people called his name "Ridge", as the nearest interpretation of the Cherokee word which meant "Walking the Mountain Tops". He distinguished himself in the Creek War under General Jackson and was appointed Major Commander of the U. S. Army and was ever afterwards known as "Major Ridge". He was Speaker of the Cherokee National Council for years and prominent in politics among his people. His brother, Oowatie, meaning "Reverend" or "Old" was called by the Missionaries "David", and was known as David Oo-wa-tee. He was the father of three daughters and five sons, **three of whom rose to places of distinction. The elder of these sons, "Gah-li-gi-nah" (meaning the Male Deer) was called by the missionaries "Buck" Oowatie and was later and ever afterward known as Elias Boudinot, having taken the name of his benefactor, the celebrated Philadelphia philanthropist, Dr. Elias Boudinot*** who adopted him and sent him to Cornwall, Connecticut, and had him educated at his own expense. This Cherokee, Elias Boudinot was Clerk of the National Council when Echota was founded as the seat of the Cherokee Government in 1825; and he afterwards became the first Editor of the Cherokee Phoenix in 1827, which paper later became the Cherokee Advocate, published in both English and Cherokee for so many years at Tahlequah. This Boudinot was the father of the well known and gifted Elias Cornelius Boudinot, who represented the Cherokees at Richmond, Virginia, as Delegate to the Congress of the Confederate States, and who afterwards took an active part in the restoration of the rights of the Southern Cherokees, which were threatened with forfeiture at the close of the War between the States. The second son of David OO-wa-tee is the illustrious subject of this sketch.

General Watie was born in the Old Cherokee Nation at the old Watie home, on the Coo-sa-wee-tee Stream in Georgia, near the present site of the City of Rome, December 12th, 1806.

At his birth General Watie was named only in Cherokee though it was customary, in those days, to give a Cherokee child both an Indian and an English name. It is an interesting study to trace the origin of these given, or personal, names among the early Cherokees and other Indian Tribes. They usually gave a child a name with some special significance and a similarity of meaning or interpretation was followed by members of the same *Clan, of which there were seven among the Cherokees. These Clan names were the nearest approach to anything like a "Surname" among the Cherokees as late as

*Among the full-blood Cherokees in early days, brothers rarely ever had the same name; hence the origin, from two own brothers of two separate family names—"Ridge" and "Watie". Major Ridge was also known among his own people as "Ka-nut-tah-cla-gee", meaning "Big Speaker".

**The sons of David Watie were: Elias, Stand, John, Thomas, and Charles. His daughters, Nancy, who married Judge John F. Wheeler; Mary, who married Jack Candy; and Elizabeth, who married Walter Webber.

***The descendants of Buck Watie retained the adopted name of "Boudinot"; members of this branch of the "Watie" family are living in Oklahoma today.

*First cousins belonging to the same Clan were counted, in the line of relationship among the ancient Cherokees, as brother or sister. The Clan name was always inherited through the mother.

1700. Personal names were sometimes changed, but Clan names were never changed in ancient times among the Cherokees. This Indian Hero of Oklahoma was given in infancy the name of "Ta-ker-taw-ker", which meant in English, "To Stand Firm", "Immovable". How significant a title, in after-life, for this man so steadfast in character, so immovable in purpose when he believed his convictions were right! At the time of Gen. Watie's birth the only missionary station among the Cherokees was at Springdale, established by the Moravians of North Carolina in 1800, and conducted by Rev. John Gambol and his wife, both remarkable people. Though the Cherokees, for generations before this date, had manifested a belief in the Great Hereafter, and followed a form of worship of the Great Spirit or Almighty, yet it was at this place that the first Cherokees were baptized as members of a Christian Church. It is probable that Gen. Watie's mother was among the first converts, as she was a member of the Moravian Church. Her baptismal name was "Susannah" and she had her son "Ta-ker-taw-ker" baptized with the English baptismal name of "Isaac"; but Watie ever retained the one Cherokee name given him at his birth. At this mission also John Ridge, "Buck" Watie, and other prominent Cherokee boys attended school. Later John Ridge and Jack Bell were sent East to be educated, attending the same school with Buck Watie.

Until he was almost twelve years old Watie spoke only the Cherokee language. When he was sent at this age to the little Moravian Mission School, at Brainard, on the line between Georgia and Tennessee, he simplified the spelling of his name, dropping the "Oo", and ever afterwards writing it simply, "Stand Watie." The family name from that date was spelled "Watie". Watie's mother, though she spoke the Cherokee language altogether, was a half-blood Cherokee. Her mother was a sister of Charles Reese, whose valor under General Jackson, at Horse Shoe Bend, has been worthy of remembrance. The "Reeses" were a prominent family of North Carolina and Georgia. Though Gen. Watie's father was a full-blood Cherokee, and spoke no word of English, yet he was a man of great common sense and intellectual conception. Seeing the advantage of an education by his association with the missionaries, he determined to give his children every advantage and opportunity within his power. In his youth Gen. Watie spoke the English language slowly and deliberately. He was never an orator, even in his native tongue; but he wrote with ease as is typical of the Indian. His letters, many of which have been preserved and treasured by his relatives and friends, are representative of the man: clear, concise and to the point, well expressed and written in that regular legible hand so familiar at that period.

Stand Watie was a man of thought and action and few words. No man ever rose to such distinction, among his people, who had less to say. His characteristic attitude at all times, when alone, was one of deep and thoughtful study. His features were strong and lion-like, but reflected a most genial expression. Though an enemy might call his face stern and homely, he was a man whom little children loved and helpless women were glad to call him friend.

Like many other military men, Gen. Watie was small in stature but exceedingly strong and active, even exceptionally so, though the Indian youth of his day were well drilled in physical courage, endurance and self-control. When a mere boy, less than twenty years of age, he was chosen with twenty-three of the best ball players in the Cherokee Nation to play a challenge game, one half of the Nation against the other half.

At that time, Indian ball playing required all of the strength, activity and endurance that a man possessed. But if Watie was a good player, he was also a good worker, for he early manifested habits of industry and economy, which were not so common, among the Indian youth of that period as ball playing and foot racing. He was also a splendid rider and no man looked better on horse back than he. He was exceptionally fond of horses and his own received his most careful attention. His personal friendships were slowly made, but loyally retained. In his early manhood, his most intimate friend was Charles Hicks, who had been elected Sheriff of one of the Districts in which the Nation in Georgia had recently divided itself. A notorious desperado of that portion of the country killed Hicks when the latter was trying to arrest him, and he came near killing Watie, whom Hicks had made his deputy. Stand Watie, as deputy sheriff, afterwards hunted the desperado down and killed him in single combat. This action was highly commended by the grateful citizens of Georgia and Tennessee, for the rogue he had slain had long been a terror to both states.

At this time the Cherokee Nation, in Georgia, was the home of a rapidly advancing tribe of Indians. They had written constitutions and laws, established courts and juries and were the owners of prosperous farms. The general mass of them, it is true, were ignorant, but happy, under the administration of a few simple and wholesome laws. Remnants of some of these substantial homes, of the more influential Cherokees, are to be seen in Georgia today, and the Indian name and romance still cling to many of the clear streams of this old Southern State, though the Indian form haunts them no more. A number of Mission Schools provided educational advantages and some of the "well-to-do", had Missionaries * at their own expense for the instruction of their children. Among this class were Major Ridge and Jack Bell. But a sorrowful change came over the Cherokee Nation. The white man became covetous of the soil and the minerals it contained. The Georgia Charter took in a large portion of their country and the Cherokees had no patent to protect them from oppression. This Tribe of Indians, with their independent form of Government, was an undesirable element to the people of the State of Georgia. Convicted on suspicion, the Cherokees were tried and sentenced by laws, whose authority they could not acknowledge. This Nation, as a people, had always given the white man and his civilization a ready welcome in the days when the red men were numerous and the white men few. But how did the United States Government regard these venerated ties and traditions of the Cherokees or their right to this land, where for unknown ages their forefathers had hunted and fished and gathered around their council fires, and where the sacred ashes of their dead were buried? When they found they had either to sacrifice the Cherokees or to use military force against the Georgians, they decided to compel the Cherokees to move farther West. And with them went the other tribes from Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama.

*One of the missionaries thus employed was Miss Sophia Sawyer of New Hampshire, who made her home with Major Ridge's family coming with them to the Western Cherokee Nation. She later established a "Seminary for Young Ladies" at Fayetteville, Arkansas, and many of the prominent women of Arkansas and Indian Territory in the early days attended this school. Among them the mother of our honored Senator R. L. Owen.

It is not advisable, in this sketch, to go into the causes and full details of the removal of the Cherokees and other Indian tribes from their homes in Georgia and Tennessee. Sufficient to touch briefly upon the more familiar facts of the treaties about this time. Frequent reports of the details of this particular period of Cherokee History, have from time to time been written, many of these have been erroneous as to the real facts, and it is doubtful whether any perfectly authentic account has ever been given to the public. When it became positive, that the United States Government was determined to force the Indians from these States, a Commissioner, J. T. Schermerhorn, was appointed to make a treaty or an agreement with them, whereby they were to receive a certain sum for their lands and move West, where a patent would be granted them by the United States Government. This land was to be theirs "as long as grass grew and water ran". On February 28th, 1835, a delegation of Cherokees headed by John Ross, Principal Chief of the Eastern Cherokees, concluded a treaty with this Commissioner, by the terms of which the lands of the Cherokees were to be ceded to the Government for a price that was to be fixed by the United States Senate. The sum thus apportioned was deemed insufficient by Ross and his associates and he refused to abide by the terms of the treaty. The amount offered was indeed unsatisfactory to every Cherokee, but a few months later oppression became intolerable and while the price offered for their land, compared to the number and value of its acres, seemed far too small, yet the determination on the part of the Government to remove them and to refuse them any greater price seemed unchangeable. Many of the Cherokees were advised by John Ross that if they persisted in refusing negotiations with the United States Government they might hope yet to receive recognition in the Courts of Georgia and remain in their own homes, or get a better price for their lands if they did remove. In response to this advice many of the Cherokees remained away from the second council, which was called about a year after the first.

But there were other men in the Nation, who held a different view of the situation, prominent leaders of the Cherokees, possibly men of foresight, who judging the future by the past, saw the inevitable result and no hope for better terms, nor greater remuneration for their estates. They believed delay would bring only a greater oppression upon them as a Nation, and thought that the wisest and most expedient thing to do, was to lead the people to a treaty or conclusion with the United States, in which they would have some representation, rather than be driven out under more grievous circumstances in the future. The leaders and advocates of this movement were Major Ridge, his son, John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot. Though they were afterward maligned and suffered martyrdom for their convictions, these men, together with Jack Bell, headed a delegation of Cherokees who met the United States Commissioner J. T. Schermerhorn and signed a new treaty in December, 1835, which was ratified in the spring of 1836. Among the signers of this treaty, beside Major and John Ridge and Elias Boudinot, were Jack Bell, Stand Watie, Washington Adair, James Starr, William Laslie and John Gunter. No class of men in the Cherokee Nation had more to lose, or a greater sacrifice to make, from the sad change that was to follow this removal, than the signers of this famous treaty. Most of them were well-to-do financially and prominent in the councils of their people. To the fair-minded student of Cherokee chronicles, history but repeats itself in the lives of these men, and their wisdom and patriotism have been acknowledged, just

as the light of after history has cleared the name and motives of many a misjudged soldier, statesman and man of letters.

Under the existing circumstances it is small wonder that there was confusion and bewilderment among the masses of the Cherokees. It takes more cool-headed courage to lead an unwilling, uncomprehending people into an unknown country, than to lead an inflamed populace to battle. The refusal and repudiation of the treaty, by those who had become bewildered and confused, through the advice of those who opposed the treaty party, caused added hardships for many unfortunate Cherokees, who still refused to leave their native hills and streams. Consequently many of them were driven by soldiers, like so many cattle, from the peaceful pastures of a land they had believed to be theirs forever. These Southern Indians were not nomads, and no one can picture the story of the exodus of the Cherokees and other tribes through this "Trail of Tears" into an untried country. The story of Arcadia repeated. Separation, hardship and death marked the way. This is a dark page in the history of Georgia as well as a sorrowful one in the life of the Cherokee people. When this emigration was over, which included the followers of Ross, and they found themselves strangers in a strange land, Ross assumed the Chieftancy of the two Nations, as many of the Cherokees had voluntarily emigrated to the upper waters of the Arkansaw years before, for we find them making treaties with the Osages as early as 1818. They had their own government, chiefs, and leaders. And their council grounds, which served as a capital, were near the Illinois River, not far from the Old "Mackey Salt Works". They called the place "To-lon-tees-key", and it was ever after a "Voting Precinct" in the Cherokee Nation. After 1837 the first emigrants were called "Old Settlers". The emigrants of 1837 named their capital "Tahlequah". It was located some distance from the old "Precinct", and was afterwards known as the capital of the Cherokee Nation.

A demon spell now enveloped the Cherokee country as is ever the case when feuds and factions arise within a Nation. The members of the former "Treaty Party" headed by Ridge and Boudinot, were called traitors by the "Ross Party", and this continued accusation became the platform of strife and bloodshed, turbulence and suffering for a newly divided people in a new land. Had bitterness and disagreement been forgotten and a united effort made toward rebuilding the broken fortunes of a broken people, the cruel history from 1838 to 1846 might never have been written. If history had preserved for us a record of the "Secret Council" of the Anti-Treaty Party, said to have been held at Double Springs, near Tahlequah, in the spring of 1839, much that will forever be a question to the searcher for truth would be revealed. Passing hastily over this black page of Cherokee History, so closely allied with the life of Gen. Watie, it must be mentioned that Secret Police forces of one hundred men each were, soon after this Council, organized by the Ross Party, with a Commander for each Company, whose purpose was to extinguish the leading men of the Ridge Party. And the pages of Cherokee History will forever be shadowed by the atrocious tragedy that took place in the assassination in one night of Major Ridge, then an aged man of seventy-five; his son John Ridge, and Elias Boudinot, *three of the most powerful and influential men of the Treaty Party. This opened an international wound of sor-

*The murder of these men, which took place within a few hours of each other was most systematically carried out though they were widely separated at the time. John Ridge was slain on Honey Creek, Cherokee Nation, near the Missouri line; Major Ridge in the Cherokee Nation near Cincinnati, Arkansaw, and Elias Boudinot near Park Hill, Cherokee Nation.

row and bloodshed, for the Cherokee people, extending over a terrible, dark period of eight or ten years and whose influence lasted for decades upon this Nation. Stand Watie, Jack Bell and Walter Adair were "slated" to die at this same time but were absent from home the night that these foul murders were committed. Thereafter they were continually on scout and guard against some hidden plot to take their lives. A short time after this horrible event Stand Watie organized a Military Force, stationed at Beatties Prairie to oppose the Ross Police Force.

Despite opposition and oppression Watie became, after the assassination of his kinsmen, the most influential man and the conceded leader of the Ridge Party. Among the personal incidents, current among his people today, of the bravery of Stand Watie, is one connected with this terrible tragedy. When his brother, Elias Boudinot, lay dead in the midst of his foes, Watie silently rode up unarmed. The great crowd of his enemies suddenly drew back, making way for this grim horseman. Removing the sheet that covered the face of his murdered brother, he looked down long and earnestly upon the still features. Then turning to the dark visaged crowd he said, in a voice that each could hear, "I will give ten thousand dollars to know the name of the man who struck that blow". All who knew Stand Watie were aware of his ability to pay this reward, but not one in that guilty crowd answered him and he rode away as fearlessly as he had come, though there were fully one hundred men in that same company who had sworn to take his life only the night before.* Thomas Watie and James Starr were killed by the Ross Party in 1845, but the old tradition among the full-blood Indians, "That no weapon was ever made to kill Stand Watie," seemed verily to fulfill itself, and he successfully passed through the dangerous and trying years from 1838 to 1846.

All during this dark period, oppression of the Treaty Party and their sympathizers grew so great that there was a growing sentiment among them to importune the Government for a separation of the Cherokees into two Governments as the only alternative open to the Ridge or Treaty Party and the Old Settlers, as there seemed no promise of a United Nation, such as Stand Watie hoped for, in which ability and worth would be recognized above envy and party faction. For that dark mysterious power was ever ready to threaten or lay low any member of the Treaty Party that rose to too great political distinction. But the United States Government was interested in a difficulty with Mexico about this time and a more careful investigation of Indian affairs was deferred. A partial reconciliation was arranged terminating in the Treaty of 1846 of which Watie was also a signer. The United States Government bound themselves to keep down internal strife and foreign invasion. The Cherokees began to enjoy a greater season of peace than they had known since their removal West of the great river. Watie was growing to be a great political power and the opposing faction was beginning to fear again the increasing strength of the Ridge Party. Then a new organ of strife was inaugurated among the Cherokees by the Ross Party, known as the "Ka-too-was". The badge of this organization was two pins crossed in the lapel of the coat or hunting shirt. A large majority of this same society, later in 1861 joined the Union or Federal faction and were called "Pin Indians". Many of them were a terror to the defenseless families of the Confederate Cherokees. It is but just, in passing, to say that the

*This incident was related by Col. Richard Keys, formerly of Coo-wee-scoo-wee District, Cherokee Nation, whose father lived within a mile of where it took place.

more recent society of "Katoowas" or "Night-hawks" was not fashioned after this anti-treaty association.

But neither feuds, factions, nor secret forces could withstand the power of this magnetic man. For Watie was among the most prominent men in the re-organization of the Cherokee Nation. He was Speaker of the Council from 1857 to 1859, and a member of the Council from 1845 to 1861. By close application and industry, Watie was rapidly rebuilding his broken fortunes when another shadow of suffering and division enveloped the entire Indian Territory.

At the out-break of the War between the States, no section of country suffered more than the Indian Territory, especially the Cherokee Nation, which directly bordered the State of Kansas. Though the terms of the Treaty of 1846 called for protection for the Cherokee Nation from all foreign invasion, yet the United States troops were withdrawn from Ft. Gibson and the Indian Territory left open and unprotected. The Five Civilized Tribes, with the exception of the Seminoles, had been at peace with the United States Government for half a century, and though this was not directly their "Quarrel", yet there was manifestly great interest and excitement when the news of the firing of Ft. Sumpter's guns reached them. At that time neither railroad nor telegraph extended as far as the Indian Territory. Walker, Confederate Secretary of War, appointed Hubbard of Alabama to open negotiations, at once with the Five Civilized Tribes. He in turn appointed Albert Pike,* a prominent citizen of Arkansas as Special Commissioner to treat with the various tribes. These meetings with the Indian Territory Commissioner were held at various places. The Cherokees met at Tahlequah, their Capital. John Ross, as Chief of the Cherokees, together with Stand Watie and others, signed the Treaty of Alliance with the Confederate States. Ross afterwards repudiated this action and renewed his policy of friendship with the Federal Government. Later he went to Washington with the Union General, James G. Blunt, and remained until the close of the war.

Thus the Cherokee Nation at this critical period was left practically without a head. Political divisions arose among the Five Civilized Tribes; the Choctaws going almost man for man to the Confederate cause. The Creeks as well as the Seminoles divided and the Cherokees again were separated as a Nation. Many of them through the influence of Ross, himself a Northern sympathizer, joined the Union army. These tribes were all represented at the Confederate Congress at Richmond; the Cherokees by Col. E. C. Bordinot; the Choctaws and Chickasaws by Peter Pitchlin; the Seminoles and Creeks by S. B. Calahan. It was but natural that the majority of these Tribes should espouse the cause of the South. They were born under Southern skies. Many of the Cherokees and Choctaws had inter-married with Southern people, they were all imbued with the same idea of local government that other Southerners possessed.

*In November, 1861, Pike was made a Brigadier General of the Confederate Army and commander of the Indian forces, but his military career was brief. In less than six months he retired from active service. General Pike seems to have been more of a literary than a military man.

CHAPTER II. MILITARY CAREER.



AMONG all the Cherokees there was no man more widely known or better qualified for leadership than Stand Watie. And though he never knew the definition of **fear**, like Lee he hated the thought of war, and **dreaded** to see his people again in strife, from which they had just emerged. But he was a firm believer in "State Rights", a Southerner by birth and breeding. There was no hesitation in his choice, when he cast his lot with the Confederacy. Long before the treaty made in August and signed October 7th, 1861, with Albert Pike, Indian Commissioner of the Confederate States, large numbers of prominent Cherokees had offered their services and their lives to the Southern Cause and pledged to follow where Watie would lead. It was early in the spring of 1861 that Stand Watie organized and was made Captain of an independent auxiliary force of Cherokees and whites for the purpose of guarding and protecting the northern boundaries of the Cherokee Nation from raids and depredations of the Union troops stationed at Humboldt, Kansas. Between this point and the Indian Territory were the Osages, most of whom were Unionists. Stand Watie and his men were the only protection this boundary of the Cherokee Country had at this time. Living members of this "Protective Troop" of Watie's describe some interesting and exciting "Scraps and Brushes" that took place between them and the Kansas invaders and marauders about this time, conflicts in which Stand Watie and his men were victorious.

In May, 1861, Benjamin McCulloch of Texas, a Brigadier General in the Confederate army, was assigned command of the military district of Indian Territory. His force consisted of one regiment each from Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. It was also proposed to raise three regiments among the Five Civilized Tribes, to be attached to his command. At the beginning of the War, Camp Walker was established in Benton County, Arkansas, as a recruiting station for northern Arkansas and Indian Territory State and Confederate troops. Shortly after his independent organization, Captain Watie went to Camp Walker and waited on Gen. McCulloch, and offered his services to the Confederate cause. His offer was gladly and promptly accepted and he was given a Colonel's commission and authorized to raise a regiment. A letter from General McCulloch, Sept. 2, 1861, says, "Watie's Regiment is composed of half-breeds, men highly educated and good soldiers in or out of the Nation. I hope that the Government will continue this gallant man and true friend of our country in service and attach him to our command. It might be well to give him a separate command."

About this time Stand Watie called a convention at Beatie's Prairie School House for the purpose of ascertaining just how many Cherokees and whites were ready to enlist in the Confederate army, and to increase this number as much as possible. Many well known and leading men were present and many a Cherokee name familiar today was represented at that memorable meeting.

At Ft. Wayne, an ancient abandoned U. S. Fort in Delaware District, Cherokee Nation, on Spavinaw near his old home, on July 29th, 1861, Colonel Watie organized the first Cherokee Regiment later known as the "Cherokee Mounted Rifles". The field officers were as follows: Stand Watie, Colonel Commanding; Thomas Fox Taylor, Lieutenant Colonel; Elias Cornelius Boudinot, Major; Charles E. Watie (brother of Stand Watie), Adjutant; George W. Adair, Quarter Master;

Joseph M. Starr, Senior Commissary; W. T. Adair, Surgeon; W. D. Polson, Assistant Surgeon; Rev. J. N. Slover, Chaplain; G. W. West, Sergeant Major. Its Captains were, Company A, Buzzard; Company B, R. C. Parkes; Company C, Daniel H. Coody; Company D, James M. Bell; Company E, Joseph F. Thompson; Company F, Joseph F. Smallwood; Company G, George H. Starr; Company H, John Thompson Mayes; Company I, Blueford W. Alberty; Company J, J. Porum Davis; Company K, Jack Spears; Company L, James Thompson. This famous regiment participated in the following battles and skirmishes, from 1861 to 1865: Wilson Creek, Missouri; Bird Creek, Oklahoma; Short Creek and Neosho, Missouri; Pea Ridge, Arkansas; Newtonia, Missouri; Ft. Wayne, Ft. Gibson, Bayou Manard, Barren Fork, Camp Creek, Honey Springs, Webbers Falls, Oklahoma; Prairie Grove, Poison Spring, Mazarard Prairie, Arkansas; Grove, Oklahoma; Cabin Creek, Oklahoma (twice), and many other sharp skirmishes—minor furries—raids and captures.

BRIEF SKETCHES, of some of these **BATTLES, RAIDS and SKIRMISHES**.

BATTLE OF WILSON CREEK.

In the latter part of June, or early in July, 1861, the Union Generals Lyon and Seigle, had driven the Missouri State Troops, under General Sterling Price, back to Carthage and Newtonia, Missouri. General Ben McCulloch with all the available Confederate troops went to his aid. After a skirmish with the cavalry the Federals retreated, falling back to Springfield, Missouri. A little later the combined forces of Price and McCulloch advanced reaching Crane Creek, Missouri. The Federals came out to meet them but retreated again to Springfield without making an attack. The Confederates then advanced to Wilson Creek, about twelve miles southwest of Springfield, and went into camp along the banks of this little stream. Here they were attacked by the Federals early in the morning of August 10th, 1861. Colonel Watie with a portion of his regiment were in the bloody battle that followed and did heroic service. The Federals were defeated with the loss of many men and much artillery which was captured by the Confederates. John Bengé, who was killed at this time, is said to have been the first Cherokee to fall in battle after the beginning of the war. General Lyon was slain and it is said his parting words to Seigle were, "You better be moving," which advice was immediately followed.

BATTLE OF BIRD CREEK.

December 25th, 1861.

The noted Seminole or Creek warrior Yo-ho-la, who led the northern Creek Indians, was a shrewd and cunning soldier. In December, 1861, he came into the northwestern portion of the Cherokee Nation on Bird Creek with his affiliated bands of Union Indians. He hoped to induce the Federal Cherokees to join him. Colonel D. N. McIntosh and his regiment of Southern Creeks, Choctaws and Texans, under Colonel Cooper had attacked him but failed to dislodge him from his position. Later General James McIntosh of Texas, who was killed at Pea Ridge in 1862, was directed to drive him and his force out of the Cherokee Nation. General McIntosh was joined, at old Ft. Gibson, by Colonel Watie and his regiment. They pursued Yohola and found him in a strong position on Hominy Creek, a tributary of Bird Creek. On this battle march Captain Jim Bell, John Schrimsher and Clem Rogers, because of their familiarity with the country, acted as pilots or guides for Watie's regiment and other troops. On Christmas Day, 1861, near the present site of the City of Tulsa this important battle took place with the result that Yohola's forces were completely

routed, many of his men killed, many horses and mules captured. The next day Watie and his men alone, continued to pursue Yohola. The section of the country was extremely rough and rugged and the cedar brakes along the Arkansaw River where Yohola and his men had taken refuge, were so dense as to be almost impassable and had it not been for this barrier it is probable that his entire force would have been annihilated. With the small remnant of his band Yohola made his way to Leroy, Kansas.

BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAW.

On March 6th, 1862, Colonel Watie and his regiment took a prominent part in the decisive and bloody battle of Pea Ridge or Elk Horn. The Confederate forces, under the direction of General Albert Pike* were marched across the Indian Territory to take part in the campaigns of Generals Price and Van Dorn. Colonel Watie led his men from old Ft. Gibson to the battle ground at Pea Ridge. On the way his troops were inspected by General Van Dorn, who with the famous Sterling Price commanded the Confederate forces in this battle. General Price had charge of the Missouri troops, and General McCulloch commanded the Texas and Indian Territory troops. When Colonel Watie reached the battle field he reported at once to General McCulloch, who directed him to uncover the enemies' position in the front. But scarcely had he been given the command and ere he could mentally outline any definite plan of action, the enemy opened fire upon his regiment from a masked battery, backed by a strong force of cavalry and infantry. Watie immediately gave the order to charge the battery, which they did aided by a few other troops, and captured four pieces of artillery. There are living, today, men, who fought under Watie in that daring charge. "Uncle Webb Vann" of Pryor, Oklahoma, a survivor of that notable "charge", recently said, "I can't see now how we did it; but Watie ordered the charge, which he always led and his men would follow him into the very jaws of death, the Indian Rebel yell was given and we fought them like tigers three to one. It must have been that mysterious power of Stand Watie that led us on to make the capture against such odds". The old veterans claim that the wizardry of Watie's influence could make a weak man brave and a brave man braver, that Fear never found the road to his soul and the word "Retreat" was not in his vocabulary, and that during this daring charge and marvelous capture, when he and his men were almost in touch with the guns of the enemy, he never ordered a retreat; but when the odds were hopelessly against them for further action, and the shot and shell were covering their position like hail stones he exclaimed instead, "Charge back boys! Charge back!" In this battle engagements took place on both sides of the mountain. General Price had charge of the East side and General McCulloch the West side. Generals McCulloch and McIntosh of Texas were killed early in the battle and the Federals were victorious. In the evening Colonel Watie and his men joined General Price's division on the East side. The death of the two brave Generals McCulloch and McIntosh was a disastrous loss to the South and the victory of the Federals had a depressing effect upon some of the Indian Territory Confederate troops.* Judge

*After this battle a large portion of the Indian Confederate troops, under command of Colonel John Drew, went over to the Union side. This regiment had been organized shortly after the signing by John Ross, of the Treaty of Alliance with the Confederate States and was composed largely of full-blood members of the former Ross Party. Colonel Drew and some of his men remained loyal to the Confederate cause. The duplicity of some of the members of this regiment had no effect upon Stand Watie nor his men.

James M. Keys, of Pryor, Oklahoma, one of General Watie's veteran soldiers, speaking of this famous charge, in which he took part, said, "I regard General Stand Watie as one of the bravest and most capable of men and the foremost soldier ever produced by the North American Indians. He was wise in council and courageous in action. His charge alone, within itself, at the battle of Pea Ridge with his famous 'First Cherokee Regiment of Cavalry,' that resulted in the capture of a Federal battery should, forever, stamp him as one of the real heroes of that sanguinary affair, as infantry was usually employed to capture batteries of artillery, and Watie was only a Colonel then, and fighting outside his own domain." Judge Keys further said that he believed that had it not been for the unfortunate loss of Generals McCulloch and McIntosh the Confederates would have been victorious.

After the Battle of Pea Ridge.

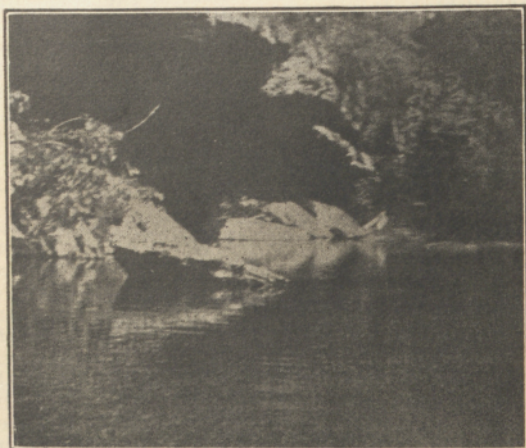
General Van Dorn returned East of the Mississippi River, and confined his action there until his death in 1863. Many of the Confederate troops at this time, were also transferred East of the Great River. Colonel Watie and his men returned to the Cherokee Nation and continued to defend and protect it against the depredations of the enemy. In June, of this same year, Colonel Wm. Weir with five thousand Union troops marched southward from Humboldt, Kansas, and entered the border of the Cherokee Country. The only opposition to their advance, at this time, was Watie and his regiment. General Pike,** who was still in command, maintained his headquarters and most of his forces at Ft. McCulloch on Blue River, Choctaw Nation. But Stand Watie was a mighty power in resisting Weir's advance. Like Morgan of Tennessee he constantly worried, baffled, and harassed, his antagonists. He had his men under perfect control, and knowing the country and its people as he did, he was able to strike when and where they least expected it, and continually kept them deluded and on the move. When in camp Watie was always on the outskirts of his regiment on the lookout for the enemy and at night he is said to have slept with one eye open, ever on the alert for the Kansas Jayhawker and the Pin Indian. There was nothing going on in military lines in his section of the country that he did not find out, and report to his superior officers. His services, in this capacity, to the Confederate Cause and to his own people, as a Nation, can never be estimated. He was a trained scout, having learned the art well in the early days when he was hounded by his political enemies for seven long years. After the resignation of General Pike and the appointment of Colonel Cooper, who advanced northward to the aid of Colonel Watie, the majority of the Union forces moved again into Kansas.

SKIRMISH AT SPAVINAW AND CAPTURE AT LOCUST GROVE.

Late in June or early in July, 1862, Colonel Watie, with his regiment and commissary wagons, was encamped at Grand Saline and Locust Grove, now a portion of Mayes County, Oklahoma. This was about the time of the invasion of Union forces from Kansas, under Colonel Weir, which included two regiments of Union Indians and was the first Federal force to

**Shortly after this battle General Albert Pike resigned his command of the Confederate Military District of Indian Territory. He was temporarily succeeded by Colonel Douglas H. Cooper. In January, 1863, General Wm. Steel was appointed to the position and he was succeeded by General Maxey in December, 1863.

penetrate the Cherokee border. Upon ascertaining that there was a large body of this same force advancing from the northeast, Colonel Watie, with a part of his regiment, set out to meet them and drive them back or prevent their further advance. After they had been on scout, in the Spavinaw Hills near his home, for a short while without discovering the Federals, Colonel Watie, fearing an unexpected attack upon his camp, was preparing to return to Locust Grove, when his picket reported to him the advance of the Federals, in the direction of Watie's own home. He at once fell back with his regiment across Spavinaw in order to secure a better position from which to give battle. While on march to this position he learned that the advance guard of the enemy was pressing his rear guard. He directed his Lieutenant, Colonel Thomas Fox Taylor, to take two companies from the regiment and check the advance guard of the Federals. To fulfill his chieftain's orders Taylor chose Captain Brewer's "Company C" and Starr's "Com-



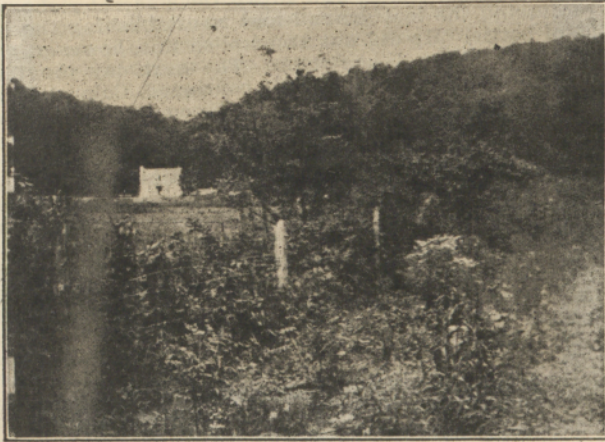
Scene near Gen. Watie's old home on the classic Spavinaw, the most transparent stream in Oklahoma.

pany H", as his assistants. Nearly all these men were his own blood kin. Colonel Taylor with his men, surprised the Federal guard at the ford of Spavinaw and a brief but heated skirmish took place in which Taylor and his company were victorious, driving the Federals back on the main body that was marching toward Colonel Watie's farm. Colonel Watie then rode up and directed Taylor to fall back with his men to the regiment. He then chose five young men* to accompany him and hastily crossed the stream and ascended a high point of the hill where he could overlook his home. There was anxiety written in every line of his face, for his family were at home at this time. For a short time he paused and with his field glass** watched the maneuvers of the Federal cavalry, but they seemed to be continuing a retreat without pause and without molestation. Despatching a courier to Taylor with instructions to advance with the regiment with all possible speed towards the camp, Colonel Watie, after assuring himself that the

*One, of whom, gave the author the description of the skirmish.

**This same field glass was willed, by the late Colonel Jim Bell, to the author.

Federals were continuing their retreat, descended the hill with his escort and followed his command. A few miles from Grand Saline he came to a place where his regiment had turned to the left and veered to the southeast. His fears and suspicions became more fully aroused as to the safety of his commissary department and camp equipage, and as he and his companions followed the course taken by the preceeding regiment they noticed little white flags floating from the tops of houses whose inhabitants seemed to be absent. This further confirmed Watie's fears. Finally overtaking the regiment he learned that a large force of Federals had advanced in the night and had captured his entire commissary and camp supplies. This attack came as a surprise to the Confederates at daybreak. Some of them were slain as they lay sleeping in camp. The small command of Watie's Cherokee troops fought with great bravery, assisted by a battalion of Missourians under Clarkson and Major Brokearm and his bold Confederate Osages, but the Kansas force outnumbered them three to one and they were compelled to yield. Colonel W. P. Adair, Clem N. Vann, B. W.



House built by Mr. Washbourne on the site of Gen. Watie's home near the spot where the "Spavinaw Skirmish" took place.

Carter, Richard Martin, Sr., and John Lowery Davis were made prisoners of war. These five prominent Cherokees, with the exception of one, were taken to Ft. Chase, Illinois, and held as prisoners of war until exchanged. When they reached Ft. Scott with these prisoners Clem Vann was stolen away by night by some of his Cherokee friends, and he made his escape. It is said that the little white "flags" on the house tops, seen by Watie and his men, were signals or signs, that the inmates of those houses were friendly to the Union cause. This was just about the time the so-called Union Cherokees espoused the cause of the Federals. General Watie, before the war, had "improved" two places on Spavinaw, within three miles of each other. This skirmish took place near one of these homes, where he had built, at the outbreak of the war, a substantial new frame house. This was later burned and the property passed into the hands of Dr. W. D. Polson, second Surgeon in Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment. Dr. Polson had a saw mill here for a number of years. Later this old "Watie Place" be-

came the property of Claude Washbourne, a great nephew of General Watie. The same chimneys built by General Watie were again used in the house erected by Mr. Washbourne.

After the capture at Locust Grove the Federals were reinforced in such numbers that the Confederates were compelled to fall back to Ft. Gibson by way of Tahlequah, and on south of the Arkansaw. Watie, always alert and watchful, never quite forgot his surprise at Locust Grove and perhaps the memory of it stimulated him, to some extent, afterward, in making so many daring raids and captures.

BATTLE OF NEWTONIA, MISSOURI, OCTOBER, 1862.

A portion of Watie's Regiment was in this battle, though he himself was not there. His Lieutenant Colonel R. C. Parks was commanding and after the manner of this courageous regiment they were in the thickest of the fray. In this battle the Choctaws and Chickasaws distinguished themselves as soldiers and fighters. The Union forces greatly outnumbered the Confederates and the first day of the battle they were gaining ground and were about to drive the left wing of the Confederates from the field when the valiant Colonel Douglas Cooper came up with these troops and drove the Federal right wing back, recovering the lost ground and re-establishing the original line of battle. He did not accomplish this, however, without the loss of many brave men. The next day the Union forces were increased and the battle continued. Colonel Cooper not thinking best to longer continue the contest against such odds retreated south with his troops.

BATTLE OF FT. WAYNE.

The Kansas Division of the Frontier, under command of General Blunt, attacked the Confederate forces under Colonel Douglas H. Cooper at old Ft. Wayne, Delaware District, Cherokee Nation, October 22nd, 1862; the result was a victory for the Union forces. Watie and his men bore the principal part of the defense in this battle but were overpowered by superior numbers. With his regiment he covered the retreat, as the Confederates retired by way of Ft. Gibson across the Arkansaw to Ft. Davis. This fort was general headquarters for the Indian Territory Confederate Division and was established very early in the war. It stood a little east of the present site of Bacone College near Muskogee. Late in the fall of 1862 the Federals were able to occupy and fortify Ft. Gibson, and it remained in their possession until the close of the war. The winter of 1862 Colonel Watie and his men made their headquarters at Camp Steel, Choctaw Nation, not far from Ft. Smith.

WATIE'S FAMOUS RAID AT FT. GIBSON.

In the spring of '63, Watie and his command returned from the Choctaw Country to the Cherokee Nation, occupying, with other troops, the south side of the Arkansaw River opposite old Ft. Gibson. He frequently made raids and excursions on the north side of the river capturing trains, mules, horses and commissary supplies and burning hay camps. One of these "raids", which resulted in a battle, is especially worthy of recording and has been frequently overlooked or erroneously given. The plain true facts, in the case, are strong enough, as it is almost without parallel of its kind. About the middle of May, his "picket" on outlook at Brushy Mountain, near the present site of Muskogee, reported to Colonel Watie that the Federals had a vast herd of horses and mules that they were in the habit of turning out of the fort corrals to graze before daylight every morning, with chosen guards acting as herdsmen. Watie at once took his regiment at nightfall and quietly dropped down the Arkansaw River a few miles, crossing over

to the other side, near the present town of Braggs. He then turned north marching his men to a point about four miles south of Ft. Gibson on top of Bayou Manard Mountain. Here he rested his men and horses until about four o'clock in the morning. Then he despatched one hundred and fifty picked men, under command of Captain O. H. P. Brewer, with instructions to proceed and round up the great herd of horses and mules, telling him that he would follow closely and cover his retreat with the herd. The order was obeyed to the letter. Brewer and his men made the seizure, killed some of the guards and took the others prisoners, and marched by his commander with the great herd of horses and mules. Colonel Watie formed his line of battle along the edge of the timber of Bayou Manard Creek, and awaited an attack that he felt sure would follow when the capture of the herds had been discovered. He did not have to wait long before he saw a squadron of cavalry which had been retained at the fort proper and a large force of infantry set out in hot pursuit of Captain Brewer and the missing herds. Watie with the remainder of his men advanced and charged this force in the open prairie driving them back on their infantry and artillery. He then fell back to his original battle line determined to stand his ground and stop their advance until he knew his men, with the horses and mules, were too far away to be overtaken. The Federals, reinforced, again advanced in overwhelming numbers and began to shell his position with artillery, but despite the increasing peril Watie stood his ground until he was assured in his own mind that his guard was beyond the reach of the enemy. Not wishing to subject his men longer to the storm of shot and shell he ordered them to fall in, by twos and retreat in good order. He had accomplished what he had set out to do, and had only one regret, the loss of a number of his brave men, among them Major George W. West, a noble officer in the First Cherokee Regiment, and the brave Captain Buzzard, who is said to have fallen in this battle. This was a signal victory for Watie, taking place right under the Federal Guns at Ft. Gibson, which was so strongly fortified at this time that it was said to be impregnable against any force of less than twenty thousand men. This raid was of inestimable value to the Indian Territory, as it delayed the march of the Federal forces for six months or a year. There are a number of men living today who took part in this capture and battle. One of the men who helped to make the capture recently said, "I distinctly remember the sound of the cannonading coming to us after we had crossed the river with the herds, and wondering in my mind, if some shot might not mean a death wound to our beloved leader or to one of our comrades."

BATTLE OF HONEY SPRINGS.

In January of 1863, General D. H. Cooper was encamped at Honey Springs, Elk Creek, in the Creek Nation near the present site of Muskogee. He was in command of a few Texas troops and the Indian troops, which included the ever ready Watie and his regiment. Here he was attacked by General Blunt with a Federal force of three thousand troops and two batteries of artillery, outnumbering General Cooper's force two to one. The battle raged fiercely for several hours, Cooper's troops putting up a brave fight against superior numbers. After a most stubborn resistance and the loss of several hundred men, a number of wagons and some commissary stores, Cooper yielded the field, going south of the Canadian River with the remainder of his large train.

CAPTURE OF TRAIN AT WEBBERS FALLS—SPRING OF 1863.

After the battle of Honey Springs General Cooper went into winter quarters at Camp Brookin, Choctaw Nation. Colonel Watie and his regiment camped that winter not far away at a place called "Camp Starvation." Here they endured great hardships. In consequence of the fall rains, which were unusually heavy that year, the roads became almost impassable. The Commissary Department could not furnish them with any necessities. The men were reduced to such dire necessity that they subsisted on parched corn, small rations of poor dried beef without bread or salt. And they felled the trees to feed their horses on the bark and branches. This fearful condition continued for six weeks when the roads were passable once more and relief came. In the early Spring of '63 Colonel Watie, forever on the lookout for the enemy, heard that the Federals, who usually favored the north side for security, were sending trains on the south side of the Arkansas River. These trains were on their way from Ft. Gibson to Ft. Smith by way of Webbers Falls. Despite the recent experience of hunger and hardships at "Camp Starvation," Colonel Watie set out with his men alone to capture these wagons, and marched towards Webbers Falls. On Dirdene Creek, a mile or more south of town, he halted and went into camp for the night, sending forward a few chosen men to find out the true situation. The scouts advanced until they came to the former home of Colonel John Drew. Here they found two Union soldiers whom they commanded to surrender. Instead, they refused and opened fire upon them wounding Richard Mayes,* one of the brave men in the guard. One of the Federals was killed. The other escaped. Richard Mayes died the next morning and was buried by his comrades on Dirdene Creek. Returning to camp the scout reported a train approaching. Watie quietly formed his men in line along a ravine and awaited its arrival. The cavalry were in advance, when they came opposite the position of the Confederates, Watie and his men opened fire upon them and they retreated. Then Watie's bugler, "Dutch Billy," was ordered to sound a charge and they opened battle with their customary force and vehemence. The Federals fell back to the top of the mountain where their train and infantry were, and formed a line of battle with every advantage in their position above, over the Confederates below. However, nothing daunted Watie when there was any possible chance of winning and he led his men up the hill, his soldiers using the battle slogan, "Remember Dick Mayes." Despite the advantage of their position the Federals were soon dispersed and their entire train of wagons and supplies was captured. In this engagement the forces on both sides were about equal in numbers. Here again was another victory for Watie and his men.

That Stand Watie and his regiment were surprised and defeated, with great loss of men, at Webbers Falls and a "Cherokee Legislative session" interrupted here, by Union forces, in the Spring of 1863 is denied by living veterans, who fought under Watie throughout the war and who should be in a position to know. If they be correct this error has, like others doubtless crept into Oklahoma History because the author was misinformed and the story may have originated from the fact that during the late Fall of '62 or very early in the winter of '63, while Colonel Watie and the larger part of his regiment were at Camp Steel, in the Choctaw Nation, Captain O. H. P. Brewer and a small company of men were sta-

*Brother of Joel B., S. H., and Tip Mayes, all members of Watie's regiment.

tioned at Webbers Falls. This little band of men were surprised and defeated with a minor loss, by a large force of Federal troops from Ft. Gibson under Colonel Phillips. It should be borne in mind that the unbiased Historian is handicapped in his work as to details, in Oklahoma History, from the fact that unfortunately the Cherokees and other tribes have left no written record of their own. This is as strange as it is unfortunate, in view of the fact that they produced minds gifted in statecraft, literature, oratory and military leadership. But like their legends and traditions many of their most valuable details of history have been handed down from one generation to another and the author, who is unable to gain this knowledge from reliable testimony must depend too much upon remote sources, such as Ethnological and Congressional Reports, which are bulky but not always dependable for real facts nor for data.

BATTLE OF POISON SPRINGS, ARKANSAW—APRIL, 1864.

In March, 1864, General Gano's Texas Brigade and Colonel Tandy Walker's Choctaw and Chickasaw Brigade were transferred to Arkansaw. The principal action of the Indian troops was at the battle of Poison Springs in which the Confederates were victorious. Members of Watie's brigade took an active part in this battle and the Chickasaws and Choctaws added to their reputation as fighters. Their action in this battle was highly commended by the commanding officers. During this engagement the Choctaw Brigade captured a wagon train and battery of artillery. Douglas H. Cooper, who was agent for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation at the outbreak of the war, became Colonel of the Choctaw and Chickasaw regiment and Tandy Walker was Lieutenant-Colonel.

After Cooper was made a Brigadier General, Tandy Walker, who was a Choctaw by blood, became Colonel of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Regiment. He distinguished himself by his bravery and military ability. His regiment was engaged in many battles and skirmishes. Among the prominent Choctaws who served in the Confederate army were: Sampson and Simpson Fulsome, Jack McCurtain, Major Durant and others. Among the Chickasaws were: Lem Reynolds, J. D. Harris, Frank Colvert, Jonathan Nail and Winchester Colvert, who was prominent in politics and Governor of the Chickasaw Nation at the close of the war. The Seminoles did valiant service, under the leadership of John Jumper, their principal chief. Other prominent leaders among them were: James Factor and John Brown, afterwards their Governor. They won special mention at Little River, where they camped on the battle field ready to renew the battle in the morning, but the Federals, for reasons best known to themselves, retreated during the night. The Southern Creeks combined their forces with the Seminoles and did commendable service for the South. Conspicuous among their leaders were: D. N. McIntosh, Samuel Checotee, Ward Coachman, James McHenry and Pleasant Porter. The Creeks won special merit at Bird Creek and Honey Springs.

"WATIE A BRIGADIER GENERAL."

Stand Watie was a born "Leader of Men." At the beginning of the war he had had no military training whatever, yet he acquired such efficiency as a leader and commander that on May 10th, 1864, he received from President Davis the appointment of Brigadier General in the Confederate army and later was Brevetted. He is said to have been the only North American Indian who ever had this honor conferred upon him. After the promotion of Colonel Watie to the position of Brigadier General, Captain James Bell was elected Colonel of the First Cherokee Regiment. This was a fitting promotion, Col-

onel Bell, a brother-in-law of Watie and brother of Jack Bell, was a man of culture and education, a brave and faithful soldier, a courteous and considerate officer. He was with Watie during the entire war, enlisting at the beginning and serving to the close. Wherever you saw General Watie you saw Colonel Bell. Clement N. Vann, a Cherokee lawyer of ability, was elected Lieutenant-Colonel under Colonel Jim Bell. He was an efficient and fearless officer. The second Cherokee regiment was composed of Five Companies of Cherokees, and Five Companies from Arkansas. William Penn Adair, known among his people, the Cherokees, both as a soldier and a statesman, was elected Colonel, and Captain O. H. P. Brewer, another Cherokee, was chosen as Lieutenant Colonel. Captain Brewer, as before mentioned, was a good tactician, a fearless officer and like many of his race was cool and determined under the most trying circumstances.

BATTLE AND CAPTURE AT MASSARD PRAIRIE, ARKANSAW.

Sometime in the summer of 1864 General Watie and other Confederate troops were maeuvering in the neighborhood of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, which was strongly garrisoned with Federal troops, but it was reported that a portion of these troops were to be withdrawn to aid a large Federal force, then advancing, on Camden, Arkansas. With the hope that this was true Watie lingered in the neighborhood determined, with the combined aid of the other Confederate troops, to make a bold attack on Ft. Smith. In the meantime he learned for a certainty that there was a Federal force encamped not far away on Massard Prairie. He immediately determined to cut this force off from Ft. Smith and capture it if possible. A hot battle ensued in which the Federals were defeated. A portion of them, escaping the deadly fire of Watie's troops, fled to the Fort. He pursued them until checked by the Artillery guns from Ft. Smith. He then fell back across the Poteau River with the captured horses, mules and camp equipage.

CAPTURE OF A STEAMBOAT ON THE ARKANSAW.

In June, 1864, General Watie fired upon and captured a steamboat which was ascending the Arkansas River from Ft. Smith to Ft. Gibson. This capture, which was made without artillery, took place at Pheasant Bluff, near the mouth of the Canadian. The boat was laden with Federal Uniforms and other supplies. The following incident is told in this connection, by one of the participants in this capture: "That night after we had all gone into camp General Watie, who was small of stature, had wrapped himself in a large Union military coat, for the night was chilly. He was sitting near the edge of the tent in his customary attitude of deep meditation. The interior was in semi-darkness, and one of the soldiers passing by and peering in, saw the outline of the coat but not the occupant. He hastily gripped the corner of the garment, thinking to make use of the same, when General Watie astonished him by saying, "Hold on! There is a man in this coat." This soon became the "catch-word" among the men of the camp.

"CAPTURE OF TRAIN AT CABIN CREEK." LAST GREAT RAID OF GENERAL WATIE."

In September, 1864, General Stand Watie hearing there was an unusually large train of commissary supplies together with herds of horses and mules coming from Ft. Scott to Ft. Gibson determined to capture this prize, if possible. Accordingly he combined his Cherokee Brigade with that of General Gano's, the two forces amounting to two thousand men. Because of General Watie's greater familiarity with the country he took the lead, the two brigades crossing the Arkansas

River at different points, Watie and his brigade crossing near the Creek Agency. After crossing the Verdigris they moved northeastward where they reached the old Military Road.* After reaching this public road they had to contend with Union forces both in the front and in the rear. North of Ft. Gibson on Negro Creek, about three miles east of Wagoner, they came upon a detachment of Negro and white Federals guarding a hay camp under command of Colonel J. M. Williams. A small battle took place. Williams and his "mixed troops" were soon defeated and dispersed with heavy loss. The three thousand tons of hay were destroyed by the Confederates. Still following the Military Road they encountered more Federals at Rock Creek where another skirmish took place. At the old Military crossing, on Cabin Creek, south of Vinita and not far from the "Hoolie Bell farm," General Watie and General Gano met and captured, after a brief but heated battle, one of the largest trains ever taken by an opposing force west of the Mississippi. This large train enroute from Ft. Scott to Ft. Gibson, consisted of about five hundred wagons loaded with government supplies and post traders goods, together with about eighteen hundred horses and mules. It was accompanied by a large guard. With this prize the Confederates started south, when in some way General Watie had intimation that the Federal troops from Ft. Gibson had started north to recapture the train and were mobilizing their forces at Pryor Creek. He immediately changed the course of action, sending the train with a picked guard of two hundred and fifty men due West. General Watie with his command continued their course down the Military Road and about six miles east of the present town of Pryor with his fifteen hundred men he halted in temporary camp to gain a better idea of the situation and to locate if possible, the Federals he had expected to meet. Selecting a detachment from each company, amounting to about eight hundred men and some artillery, General Watie concluded to move on Southwest down the Military road. It was decided that General Gano would remain with the rest of the regiment and follow the captured train. General Watie and his men continued their march until they came near the Pryor Creek Crossing. Here a large company of Federal Infantry with artillery was in ambush. They never came out in the open and no definite idea of their exact number could be obtained. General Watie maneuvered for several hours feigning an attack upon their position until he knew the train with its guard were too far away to be overtaken by infantry and artillery. The fighting at this point was strictly a duel of artillery and without the loss of life. Watie saw no occasion to longer remain when his object had been accomplished. He had given his guard "time" and "protection" against the enemy. He covered the rear of his two companies and followed the captured train West. When he overtook the train next day at the Verdigris River he discovered his men had partaken freely of the whiskey found in the Federal wagons. To prevent future trouble from this source, General Watie had the barrels of whiskey, with which three wagons had been loaded, collected and poured into the Verdigris River. Ex-chief S. H. Mayes very vividly recalls

*The survey of this old Military road which was opened for extended from Ft. Scott, Kansas, to Ft. Gibson and on into the Choctaw Nation. It was the pioneer thoroughfare for immigration transportation between Military Forts took place about 1824. It from Missouri and other states into Texas after its opening and many herds of cattle and sheep were driven into that state, over this old Trail. Traces of this historical land mark are yet to be seen here and there, which passed near Vinita, Pryor, Wagoner, Muskogee, Ft. Gibson and other Indian Territory towns.

assisting in the unusual task of hauling these barrels to the river, tapping the heads and watching the whiskey mingle its fiery liquid with the clear waters of this stream. One of the beneficial results of the seizure of this great train was the opportunity for General Watie and General Gano to bestow new suits of clothes to many of the needy men in their brigades. General Maxey states in his report, that this was a perfect Godsend, as the troops were literally in rags. The Confederates traveled westward crossing the Arkansaw near the present site of the city of Tulsa. The wagons that could not be successfully carried away were destroyed by fire. They finally made their way, after many miles of travel, through the Creek Nation to Hilliby, on the Canadian, and feeling safe from pursuit they made a division of the spoils. General Watie was not willing to participate in the division, saying, "Give it all to my men." But his soldiers ever loyal to their leader, made up a wagon load of sugar, coffee and flour and had a teamster take it to General Watie's family. The brigade then moved on down into the Choctaw Nation and disbanded for the winter.

TROOPS REORGANIZED.

After Stand Watie's promotion the Indian Territory troops were reorganized with General Watie as Commander in Chief. This organization, known as "General Watie's Indian Brigade," included the 1st and 2nd Cherokee Regiments, the 1st and 2nd Creek Regiments, John Jumper's Battalion of Seminole and an Osage Battalion, headed by Brokearm. At the time of Lee's surrender General Watie was preparing to raise an army of ten thousand men to invade the Western border of Kansas.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws were practically under General Cooper throughout the war though they may have been included in this contemplated raid. They often took part in battles in conjunction with General Watie's Indian Brigade.

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SEPARATE BRIGADES.

The history of the origin of the 1st and 2nd Cherokee Regiments has been given. The following is an outline of the beginning of the other regiments. The 1st Choctaw Battalion was organized near old Sculleyville, Choctaw Nation, with five companies. It was consolidated with five companies of white troops raised by Douglas H. Cooper. Tandy C. Walker, Sr., was Lieutenant Colonel. The 1st Choctaw Regiment was organized in the Choctaw Nation near the present site of Atoka and was composed of ten companies with Sampson Fulsome as Colonel; David F. Harkins, Lieutenant Colonel. Sylvester Durant, Major, Wm. L. Byrd, Adjutant and Thomas Edward, Sergeant Major. This Regiment belonged to Douglas H. Cooper's Brigade. The 2nd Choctaw Regiment was organized in the Fall of 1861 and was composed of ten companies. David Harkin was elected Colonel and Sampson Loring Lieutenant Colonel. This also belonged to Cooper's Brigade. The 2nd Choctaw Battalion was organized in 1862 with five companies. Jack McCurtain was Lieutenant Colonel. The Seminoles began service also as a battalion organized in September, 1861, with John Jumper its Chief Officer and James Factor its Major. Later it was reorganized in which organization were combined two or three companies of Creeks, with John Jumper as Colonel and William Robinson, a Creek, Lieutenant Colonel. It was attached later to the Indian Brigade under General Stand Watie, and participated in all the battles in which this brigade was engaged, except the battle of Wilson Creek, which took place before the organization of any Indian troops except the 1st Cherokee.

The 1st Creek Regiment, consisting of ten companies, was organized the latter part of August, 1861, with D. N. McIntosh, Colonel, and was composed of the Creek Indians residing, for the most part, on the Arkansaw and Verdigris Rivers. Wm. McIntosh was Lieutenant Colonel, but he died a year later and was succeeded by Samuel Checotee, who later became principal chief. The 2nd Creek Regiment was first organized as a battalion in September, 1861, near Eufaula, and was always composed of the Creeks residing on or about the North and South Canadian and Deep Fork Rivers. Chillie McIntosh was its chief officer, and "Nar-co-me," alias "Par-has micco," was Major. In 1862 this was reorganized into a regiment of ten companies with Chillie McIntosh, Colonel, "Pink" Hawkins, a full-blood Creek, Lieutenant Colonel, Timothy Barnett, Major, Fenton M. Sagar, Quartermaster and Ed Sangster, Commissary. Captain George W. Grayson, a brave and loyal soldier, now residing at Eufaula, commanded a company in this regiment.

"WATIE'S BENEVOLENCE TO DESTITUTE CONFEDERATE FAMILIES."

After the occupation of Ft. Gibson and Ft. Smith, by the Federal forces, all the Indian Territory included in the valleys of the Arkansaw and the Canadian became untenable to the Confederate Indians. And scattered here and there, throughout the Indian Territory, during the entire war, were many destitute Confederate families. General Watie always tried to make it possible to give them the protection of his troops and often took them before him on his marches until they could find shelter and security. Throughout the Cherokee Nation among his own people, from the very beginning of the war were many families of women and children and aged men, who had been robbed and plundered and left destitute with no visible means of support or escape. All the time he was not in battle General Watie, with a portion of his men, was busy making excursions over the country gathering up these families and bringing them into his camp. As in the beginning of the war, he took upon himself the gigantic responsibility of protecting the border of his country, so now he took upon himself the rescue and relief of his suffering people. In the winter of '64 he and a portion of his troops undertook to bring these destitute families South. After they started the weather grew intensely cold and pages could be written of the privation and sacrifice endured by General Watie and his men while on this Christian mission. He was gone six weeks, but he succeeded in conducting these refugees safely across Red River into Texas without the loss of a single life. Many incidents are still related connected with this memorable journey that are filled with pathos and sometimes with humor. Thus Stand Watie was not only a great leader, but he was a great deliverer as well. The people of the North and Western borders of Texas, during the war, owed a greater debt of gratitude to General Watie than they, perhaps, knew. This debt they partially repaid by their many kindnesses to the Indian Territory refugees. His brigade was like a "stone wall" between the Texans and the foe. The Federals never penetrated further South in this section than Little River and Perryville. Sherman's terrible raid, on a smaller scale, might have been repeated through Indian Territory and Texas had it not been for the timely raids, capture of horses, mules and trains of wagons made by General Watie and his men.

The latter part of the winter of 1864 there was little activity in the Indian Territory on the part of the troops on either side. General Watie and his brigade went into late

winter quarters near the Boggie Streams in the Choctaw Nation, still an active protection of the Indian Territory and Texas borders.

"GENERAL WATIE MADE THE LAST SURRENDER OF THE WAR."

But the great conflict, though General Watie and his men did not know it, was rapidly drawing to a close. In answer to the call of his conscience, Stand Watie had given the best of his magnificent powers to the cause of the South and he has the distinction of making the very last surrender of the Confederate forces when he gave up his Indian troops to Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Mathews at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation, June 23rd, 1865, nearly three months after the surrender of Lee's incomparable army at Appomattox.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WATIE'S INDIAN BRIGADE.

General Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment was composed of Cherokees and whites, principally of the former, but there were many brave men from Arkansas and Missouri who enlisted under him and whose devotion to him was equal to that of his kindred race. This famous 1st Cherokee Regiment was the nucleus from which was formed at the latter part of the war, "Watie's Celebrated Indian Brigade". General Stand Watie and his Indian Brigade marched over more miles, took part in more battles, had more independent conflicts and skirmishes, captured more trains of wagons and more horses and mules than perhaps any one brigade west of the Mississippi. With his forces he resisted almost step by step the advance of the Federals into the Cherokee Nation. The bodies of these men marked the way like human milestones. Many of them sleep in unknown and forgotten graves, but the memory of their valiant deeds, in defense of the South, is an heritage that every patriotic Southerner should be proud to cherish. All these Indians, though untrained in the tactics of war, were by nature and habit well-fitted to become ideal soldiers. They were good riders and splendid marksmen, most of them having been athletes from their youth up, trained in self control and endurance. Tireless in their march upon the enemy they played well their part in the great struggle of the South from '61 to '65. Their acts of valor and endurance would fill no small volume. It is an historical fact that the Five Civilized Tribes lost more men in action, in the Confederate Army in proportion to the number enlisted, than any other Southern State. These Tribes furnished fully six thousand men to the Southern troops. At the close of the war how large a per cent of them had given up their lives in battle! Of Watie's own brigade there is less than one hundred men living today. While there were no really great battles fought on Indian Territory soil yet this country certainly has a "War History" for the eternal vigilance required to protect the Cherokee border from the invasion of the enemy and the skirmishes that took place almost continually were really worse than open battles. Most of the Oklahoma text-books, on which the public school children depend for their knowledge of Oklahoma History, give little or no insight into the lives and characters of the leading men of the Five Civilized Tribes, who were the real makers of Oklahoma History.

And less has been said and written, even upon generalities, touching the Indian's part in the cause of the Confederacy than upon any other phase of the War between the States. These text-books make no mention of the Indians' part in the battle of Pea Ridge, Newtonia, Wilson Creek and other engagements in Arkansas and Missouri in which they did such valorous service. Little has indeed been written, and that which

has sometimes been quoted as "hearsay" concerning the Confederate warfare in the Cherokee Nation, originated from those who knew least about conditions in this country at that time, for some have even dared to insinuate, that among the Cherokees, it was "Chiefly a Guerilla Warfare." Nothing could be more unjust or further from the truth. General Watie, before his promotion, was ever under the direction of his superior officers and was always in perfect harmony with them. Maxey, Gano and Cooper were especially warm friends of his. Douglas Cooper had the utmost confidence in him. He said of Watie after the war, "He was not only a soldier, brave, efficient and courageous, but he was a great man, whose honor and integrity was above reproach". The fact that the Five Civilized Tribes were not required to engage in battle outside their own Territory, according to the Treaty with the Confederate States and that they did take an active part in a number of battles in Arkansaw and Missouri, is but another proof of their loyalty and devotion to the Southern cause. At the time of the War between the States the Indian Territory seemed so remote and separated, and their numbers so few compared to the thousands engaged in this great conflict, which may, in a measure, account for the scant mention made of their service. It is not the Indians' nature to advertise their part in a victory and no one seems to have thought sufficiently of them, as factors, to expend the time and means to go over the ground and gather up the interesting and valuable additions to the pages of Oklahoma's History that might have been gotten from living lips. With the stoic resolution characteristic of their race they fought and they endured the perils and hardships of war in silence and many of their deeds of valor will forever remain in oblivion.

BRIEF QUOTATIONS FROM WAR RECORDS.

A careful search, through the Official War Records of the Federal and Confederate Armies, reveals nothing but praise or commendation for Stand Watie. Letters found in these records from superior officers in the Confederate army, before and after his promotion speak of him only in laudatory terms. It is always, "The brave Stand Watie", "That true Soldier", "Our gallant Officer", "That tried friend of his Country". In another instance we find, in an account of a certain battle, "Colonel Watie was, as he always is, conspicuous for his bravery". A present ethnological scholar of Oklahoma has declared that in his research work, no Indian character has appealed to him, with such force, as that of Stand Watie. "Thoburn and Holcomb's History of Oklahoma", records the fact that in 1862 while the Federal forces were invading and occupying the Cherokee Country, Colonel Cooper sent a message, in the name of the President of the Confederate States to John Ross, who was in Washington, asking that all Cherokee men, of required age, be enlisted in the Confederate army. Ross failed to respond. When the Federal forces retired northward, a National Convention was held, when John Ross was declared to be deposed from office of Principal Chief and Stand Watie selected to succeed him. The members of the Cherokee Council who were in the Federal Military Service said to have constituted a quorum refused to recognize the election. But from this time on until the close of the war the Cherokees were not only divided, but practically had two tribal governments, the one headed by Ross; the other by Stand Watie. In a letter found in The War Records dated Sept. 15, 1862, we find: "In the meantime the serious feud ever existing between the Cherokees has terminated in the expulsion of Ross and the unsound fac-

tion and in the election of our tried friend Stand Watie as their Chief." It will also be gathered, from this source, that, after this division of the Cherokees, Watie was considered by the Government as Principal Chief during and at the close of the war and that all official business with the Southern Cherokees was enacted through him as their head. In a letter from Commissioner Scott, Jan. 1, 1863, to Seddon, War Secretary, Scott says, "Of the Cherokees less than one half followed Ross when he deserted his country, almost the whole of the worth and talent of the Nation, however, was left behind and is now clustered about Stand Watie, its present gallant and patriotic Chief." But though Watie gave the very best of his life to his people and their interests, he made no effort himself to assert his right or authority and no one ever heard him refer to any desire for public office. He was ready, as his life shows, to make any personal sacrifice compatible with honor, for the good of his people. And like the man, the friends and admirers of Watie have had little to say about these historic truths as to his leadership as Chief of the Southern Cherokees. He does not need this honor; he has glory enough without it.



CHAPTER III.

POST MILITARY CAREER AND CLOSING YEARS.
THE CHEROKEE NATION IN RECONSTRUCTION DAYS.



AFTER the close of the War between the States nowhere in the stricken South did any section of the country suffer more, during the baneful period of "Reconstruction", than the Cherokee Nation, which had been partially occupied by both armies. During the years just preceeding the outbreak of the war, the Cherokees had been enjoying a brief period of progress and development under more peaceful conditions. Independent of the missionary, for educational facilities, they had a tribal system of public schools and male and female seminaries. Their flocks and herds, it is said, were sufficient to have fed both armies during the entire war, but at its close they were in an impoverished condition. Farms had been abandoned, flocks and herds scattered, confiscated or killed, churches and schools had ceased to exist, all social, business and industrial conditions were in a chaotic state. The losses incurred by the Union Indians would be provided for by the United States Government, but the Confederate Cherokees at the close of the struggle found themselves a destitute people. Many miles from home, their families in Texas, they were strangers in a strange land. In addition to this they were partially cut off from their former heritage by the Government and the Union Party among their own people. This party, still in power, attempted to disfranchise them. Their former homes were confiscated and sold. Harrassed and bewildered at the circumstances and conditions that greeted them, some of them, in desperation, emigrated to Mexico. But the majority of the Cherokees were ever a resourceful people under trying ordeals, and upon having learned that the United States Government was going to send a Commissioner to Ft. Smith, Arkansas, to negotiate New Treaties with "Those Indians who had been guilty of rebellion against the Government", the Southern Cherokees set about at once to select a delegation of able men to represent them before this commission. They selected General Stand Watie, Colonel E. C. Boudinot, Colonel Wm. Penn Adair, Clem N. Vann, Jack Spears, Joel B. Mayes and Blue F. Alberty. These negotiations were begun at Ft. Smith, Arkansas. Many representative Cherokees, from both parties, were present. The Confederate Cherokee delegation made splendid appeals for the rights of the Southern Cherokees. Cornelius Boudinot and Colonel Adair made brilliant speeches in their defense. Colonel Adair reminded the United States Commissioners that the first violation of the Treaty of 1846, was made by the Government itself. The Southern delegation, though disappointed along certain lines, succeeded in obtaining, for their people the right to return to Canadian and Coo-wee-scoo-wee Districts, Cherokee Nation, with the privilege of appealing from the jurisdiction of the Cherokee Courts to the Federal Courts of the United States, in the event of a controversy between them and the Northern Cherokees. They also obtained the abrogation of the Act of the National Council confiscating their property. Under this agreement, that was subsequently ratified at Washington, in the Treaty of 1866, the Southern Cherokees with weary feet and anxious hearts wended their way in the direction of their old homes. Alas! for the sorrowful change that was to meet them. Many of those dear and familiar surroundings were changed beyond recognition by the destructive hand of the enemy, or under the rule of confiscation, were owned and occupied by strangers. The first departure from their old homes, the men to the army and the

women and children journeying, as refugees, into Texas, was a sad spectacle, but their return to Canadian and Coo-wee-scoo-wee Districts, in some respects, beggars description. Every conceivable device for transportation known to the ingenuity of man was brought into requisition. These were loaded with the pitiful remnants of household goods that were left to them, the greater portion of the family making the long journey on foot. A veteran states that he and his comrade walked all the way from Ozark, Arkansaw, to Baptist Mission in Going Snake District, Cherokee Nation. Upon the return of the Confederate Cherokees they discovered that there was a division of sentiment toward them, among the Northern Cherokees. One faction, composed of the liberal element, with Lewis Downing* as leader, favored the complete restoration of all the rights and privileges that the Southern Cherokees had enjoyed prior to the war. Associated with Lewis Downing, in this view, was the Rev. John B. Jones, son of Missionary Evans Jones, an adopted citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a celebrated interpreter of the Cherokee language. It was claimed that Wm. P. Ross,* as leader of the Ross Party, or other faction, bitterly opposed this policy. As to the absolute truth or falsity of this accusation we cannot say. At all events Lewis Downing withdrew and formed a political party of his own and the ultimate result of this issue and disagreement was the organization of two separate political parties, the "Downing or Peoples Party" and the "Ross or National Party". These two parties, later known as the "Downing" and "National" Parties continued to exist and in turn to control the political affairs of the Cherokee Nation up to the date of Statehood. The final result of all those negotiations and controversies terminated, at Washington, D. C., in the Treaty of 1866 between the United States Government and the Southern Indians, known among the Cherokees as the "Dark Treaty" because it gave the Negroes of slave-owning Cherokees the right to suffrage and to Cherokee soil, before the Southern Cherokee could be reinstated into his own heritage. The terms of this famous treaty are known to all who are familiar with the history of Indian Territory. Many of its conditions were objectionable to the Southern Indians, but the most objectionable clause was the unjust one that demanded of the Southern Indian an equal division of their lands with their former slaves and their posterity. This was most bitterly fought by the Southern Cherokee delegates, Watie, Adair, Boudinot, Vann, and J. A. Scales who were present in Washington. Strong and memorable speeches were made by these men. They reminded the United Commissioners that the citizens of no other Southern State were forced to divide their inheritance with their former slaves. Boudinot, like his kinsman Major and John Ridge, possessed remarkable gifts as an orator and made one of the most notable speeches of his life, at this time, but there seemed, as in the case of their former removal from Georgia, a fixed purpose on the part of the Government from which there was no alternative. The Choctaws and Chickasaws succeeded in obtaining somewhat better terms, "Forty acres to heads of families of former

*Lewis Downing was said to have been a full-blood Cherokee, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Union Army, a Baptist preacher and a man of ability and extraordinary determination. The town of Vinita was originally called "Downingville" in his honor.

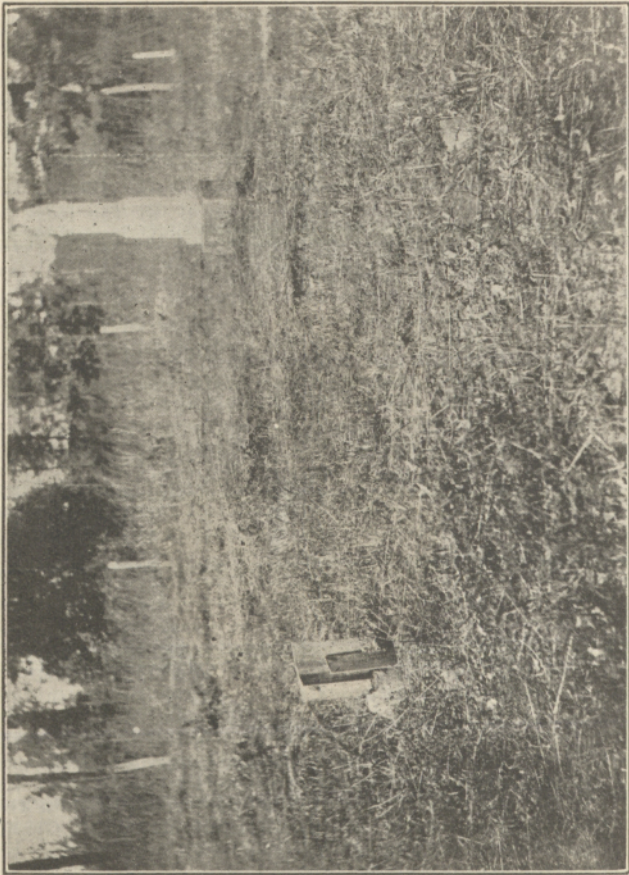
*Wm. P. Ross, a nephew of John Ross, possessed some degree of Cherokee blood. He was born in Tennessee in 1820. He was a man of culture and education having been a graduate of Princeton. After the death of John Ross in 1866 he was elected, by the National Council, before the return of the Southern Cherokees, to fill this position and served as Principal Chief until November, 1867. He again served as Principal Chief for the unexpired term after the death of Lewis Downing. He died at Ft. Gibson in 1891.

slaves", but the "former slaves and their posterity", of the Cherokees, Seminoles and Creeks were given an equal division. The evil consequences of this treaty are seen in Oklahoma to-day. The Southern Cherokees after their restoration to citizenship, at so great a sacrifice on their part, joined the Downing Party. And in the first general election after the war, November, 1867, Lewis Downing and Wm. P. Ross were the opposing candidates for Principal Chief. Downing was elected and succeeded himself at the next election for another term. Lewis Downing died before the expiration of his second term of office and by a joint ballot of the National Council, Wm. P. Ross was chosen to fill Downing's unexpired term. With this exception and the fact that the Honorable D. W. Bushyhead was elected for two terms as Principal Chief, by the Ross or National Party, the Downing Party elected all the Chiefs from 1867 to the dissolution of the Tribal Government. A few years after the war the Southern Cherokees had abrogated themselves, by majority vote, from the clause in the Treaty of 1866, giving them the right of appeal from the jurisdiction of the Cherokee Courts and as time passed away they endeavored to forget the strife and bitterness engendered by the dark conspiracies in their own history and the effects of the war, and were a prosperous and united people at the beginning of Statehood. Those who understand the full significance of that inborn sentiment, called "Patriotism" can appreciate the emotion that dimmed the eyes of the aged and many a youthful Cherokee and other Indian, when the peal of a bell marked the advent of Statehood and the dissolution, forever, of the Old Tribal Government. For, however progressive the idea or purpose, there is something tragically pathetic in the passing of a People as an Independent Nation.

THE LATTER YEARS OF GENERAL WATIE'S LIFE.

After the close of the war General Watie broken in fortune and in health began to follow the quiet pursuit of his early manhood and to separate himself, as far as possible, from public life, which fate had thrust upon his home-loving nature, but for which he had never held any ulterior ambitions. He settled in Webbers Falls, where for a time he engaged in the mercantile business. Later he moved to his farm, on Grand River, near the present site of the little town of Bernice. He died very suddenly September 9th, 1871, while on a visit to his old home on Honey Creek, where before the war he had spent so many years. He lies buried not far from this home in an unmarked grave in the old Ridge Cemetery, Delaware County, Oklahoma. This old family cemetery is not far from Southwest City, Missouri, and very near the spot where once stood the home of John Ridge, in which he was so foully murdered. Watie rests beside his kinsmen near the scenes of his early activities.

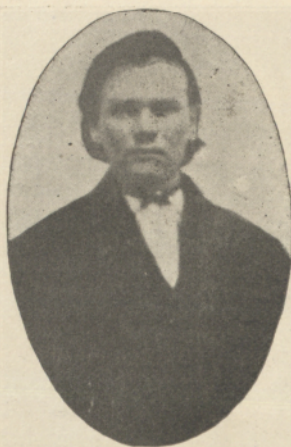
General Watie was married September 18th, 1843, to Sarah C. Bell, a sister of Colonel Jim Bell and Jack Bell. In those days all inter-marriage laws were very rigid among the Cherokees and though the Watie family and the Bells were ever the closest friends David Watie had objected to this marriage solely on the ground that they both belonged to the same Clan. But this small obstacle Watie overcame as he overcame greater ones in after life.



Grave of Gen. Stand Watie, near Southwest City
Missouri, in Delaware county, Oklahoma. As it
appears today.

In June 1921 at Tahlequah Okla a
new monument to his memory was
unveiled also a splendid stand at his
grave site. It is to be used with the Okla
War N. S. C.
Zach W. Anderson author
of chair man Gen Stand Watie
Mem. Com.

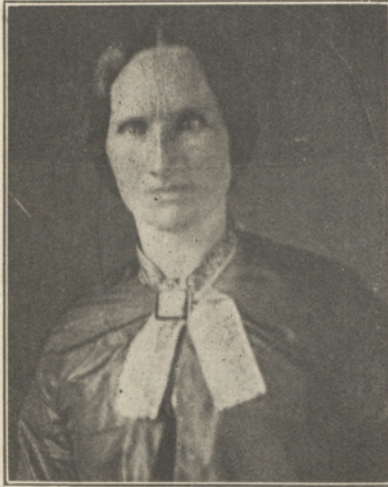
Stand Watie was the father of three sons and two daughters. His sons were Saladin, Solon or Wau-ti-ka as he was familiarly called, because of his auburn hair, and Cum-is'-ka, who died during the war, at the age of twelve, while Mrs. Watie, with her younger children, were refugees in Texas. The elder of these five children, Saladin, was said to have been one of the handsomest and most promising young men among the Cherokees at that time. He entered the service of the Confederate army when a mere boy, less than fifteen years of age and served under his father, during its entire period, and was ever his close and confidential companion. When General Watie went to Washington after the war, as delegate for the Southern Cherokees, he took with him his son Saladin, who



Saladin Watie

made many friends among the men who were familiar with his father's military career. He died in 1868 after an illness of only a few hours, at his home in the Cherokee Nation at the early age of twenty-one. Just one year later Stand Watie's second son Wau-ti-ka' died after a very brief illness, while attending school at Cane Hill, Arkansas. The sudden loss of these sons, so bright and full of promise, forms the saddest page in the life of this great man, whose future was concentrated in them, and whose courageous spirit had borne with such fortitude the trials of so many stormy years. His once magnificent constitution had been weakened by the misfortunes, privations and exposures of the war. And these sorrows, that followed so rapidly after, seemed to hasten the end that came to this brave heart only two years later. His two young

daughters, Minnee and Jacqueline, survived him but four years; the older daughter dying at the age of twenty-three February 27th, 1875. The younger daughter, a beautiful girl of eighteen, was a student at the Female Seminary at Tahlequah, at the time she was suddenly taken ill. She passed away a fortnight after her sister, March 17th, 1875. Her uncle, Colonel Jim Bell, said that she was passionately devoted to her father and constantly affirmed that she did not care to live after he had been taken from them. Minnee Watie was married to a Mr. John Daniels and was the mother of one child, who died in infancy. There is something particularly pathetic in the passing of these children of General Watie, and it is a matter of regret that no descendant of his, is left to bear his honored name. Mrs. Watie, widowed and childless died in 1883. She was a woman of unusual strength of character, wonderful energy and keen intellect. She passed through the deep waters of sorrow and misfortune from which she ever tried to learn the lesson of reconciliation and to find consola-



Mrs. Watie

tion in the hope of an eternal reunion. She is buried beside her daughters on the old Watie farm near Bernice, a town on the M. O. & G. Railroad, in Delaware County, Oklahoma. Separate stones mark the graves of the two young sisters and a double monument is over the grave of Mrs. Watie with an inscription on one side to General Watie. She had requested that this be done with the thought that some time his remains might be removed to this spot. This stone has caused much confusion as to the real grave of Stand Watie, whose remains have never been removed. It was not thought a wise thing to do, as this old homestead might pass into alien hands. Here, on this old farm, lives the brother of Mrs. Watie, Colonel Jim Bell, who fought so bravely under Stand Watie throughout the war. He is one of the most interesting, of the living historical characters, of the Cherokees, an educated and cultured gentleman of the "Old School", possessing a most remarkable memory at the age of eighty-seven. Members of Colonel Bell's family are discussing the advisability of some permanent protec-

tion for the graves of Mrs. Watie and her daughters, while yet the farm is in their possession. It is earnestly hoped that this may be done.

Some of the finest tributes that have been paid to General Watie's integrity and remarkable bravery have come from men who fought against him, for he was respected by his foes and honored and beloved by his friends. Ever mindful in his consideration of the welfare of his soldiers, never seeking ease nor safety for himself, they gave him in return their most loyal devotion, from the highest in rank to "Dutch Billy", his "Bugler" and "John" the Sweedish cook of the camp. The "full-blood" soldiers firmly believed that Stand Watie possessed a charmed life and that no bullet was ever moulded that could kill him. They had full foundation for this belief from his many personal acts of courage and they never heard of him ordering a charge that he did not lead. They also believed that he possessed the necromantic power of foretelling the events of a battle, and it is handed down as tradition among them that he never failed in a prophecy of this kind. Certain it is he never received the slightest wound nor even lost a horse in battle. His name stands for the very definition of "Bravery" among his people today. He possessed in an unusual degree those elements of human character that demand the respect of the aged and the admiration of the young, but was withal a plain, modest, unassuming man, shunning rather than seeking notoriety.

Naturally reserved in his confidences, General Watie's religious convictions were seldom referred to, but from his personal letters, which are still preserved and from his home life, (which is universally conceded, by those who knew him, to have been ideal,) is reflected the unmistakable characteristics of a spiritual nature. Though a member of no church he was known to favor the Moravian faith by which his early youth was influenced. He often interpreted for the ministers of the old Moravian Mission, founded by Rev. Mr. Mack, between Maysville, Arkansaw, and Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation. General Watie was a Mason of high degree and standing and was buried with Masonic ceremonies. No flowery eulogy that might be written of this man would seem appropriate, for in character he was quiet and unassuming, though he shouldered and dignified any duty that appealed to his responsibility. He was a man of powerful personality and magnetism, with a courage and bravery that was as stalwart and changeless as the granite rocks of his native hills. The symbol of his greatness and the keynote of his life, was his utter simplicity and sincerity. He did not thirst for power nor glory, but gave his great heart and life to duty as he saw it. Better than all the eulogies that can be written or the deserved monuments of marble or stone that may perpetuate his memory, he lives in the hearts of his People. And the "Oklahoma Division of the Daughters of the Confederacy" can do no more worthy memorial service than to erect a lasting monument to the honor of this great and good son of her own soil, this brave hero of a dear and forgotten Cause!



ADDENDA.

**GENERAL STAND WATIE'S ADDRESS* TO THE GRAND
COUNCIL OF DELEGATES FROM INDIAN TERRITORY,
WHICH MET AT ARMSTRONG ACADEMY, CHOCTAW
NATION, NOV. 1st, 1862.**

Friends:

In my address to you last year, on the occasion of your last meeting, I alluded to our gradual loss of territory; to the unrealized expectations of the Indian troops, to the sudden withdrawal of the white troops from our line of operations and to the consequent feeling of mistrust, which some of our people manifested, in regard to the intentions of the Confederate States toward their Indian Allies. Then while avowing my unshaken confidence in the good faith of the Government at Richmond, I called upon the Indian Soldiery to put forth all their energies in united and continued action for the preservation of their honor and their homes, and, if need be, to fight single-handed to the last, against the opposing odds. Then I spoke to you with feeling of disappointment and sorrow, because the fortunes of war were turned against us, not only here, but seemingly throughout the Confederate States.

Today, I speak to you with the highest feeling of pride and hope. Beyond the Mississippi, during the present year, the Confederate Arms have triumphed in many a signal battle. On this side the Mississippi their successes have been as great. And here, in our own District, I am proud to say, the Indian Troops have acted well and bravely their part. It is true, that the enemy still occupies Ft. Gibson and Ft. Smith, but it is an occupation of these towns merely and not of the Indian Territory, nor of the Cherokee Nation, nor even of the country immediately surrounding these posts. Pinched with hunger, threatened with famine, they remain, cooped up within their walls, while all around them our horsemen ride, holding undisputed possession of the country. North of them, the Confederate legions move. Missouri, which for three years has been held by them, receives the veterans of the Confederate States, sees their banners wave from her towns and cities and sees her sons, rushing by thousands to join the Army of Deliverance.

Such, my friends, is the condition of our country today, as compared with what it was a year ago. Have we not reason to be thankful to the Great Spirit, who sees all things, who overrules all things and whose arm is stretched forth in defense of a just cause?

In your Council, you will, as representatives of your respective Nations, deliberate upon measures, with the view of benefiting us all. What those measures may be, I know not, but I am led to suppose, from the destitute condition of our people, especially our women and children, that inquiry may be made, in regard to the non-payment by the Confederate States of monies due the Indian Nations, according to Treaty stipulations. All inquiry upon this subject has been fully met and satisfactorily answered in the late report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Indeed, it appears to me, that by reason of the great and continued depreciation of the "Old Currency," the Confederate Government could not make payment, until the new Currency, known as the "New Issue," could be had. And I hold it as wise policy on the part of that Government, to call in, as far as possible, all the old currency, before the notes of the new be put in circulation. The failure of the Confederate Government to pay promptly the monies due us, as annuities, under Treaty Obligations, will also explain its

*The original copy of this address written by General Watie's own hand is in the possession of the author.

seeming tardiness in the payment of the Troops. We might certainly, in a time of peace and tranquility, ascribe to that Government a want of good faith towards us in not meeting Treaty Stipulations, such as those of which I now speak, but in time of war, such as the present, the case is palpably far different. In a war like this, the rules, which ordinarily guide and govern in times of peace, are set aside by the Force of circumstances or rather they are swallowed up by the war itself. Particularly is this the case at the present time. For my part, when I survey this fearful strife, when I see the Confederacy weak in members, compared with the North, struggling for freedom and its own existence; when I see every man capable of bearing arms called into the service; when I see her coasts blockaded and her communications with the world, in manner cut off, I cannot ask why it is that she does not do **more**, but ask, how it is, that she does so **much**. I believe, I may safely say, that in no time, **has any Government struggling for freedom exhibited more astonishing powers in proportion to its resources.** Let us consider then, the condition of that Government and, instead of complaining of what might be considered neglect to meet Treaty stipulations, bear in mind, that she too has wants; that her Soldiers, like ours, are poorly fed and poorly clothed; that if our currency is all but worthless, theirs is the same; that, if many of us brave the chilly winter without tents, they fare no better; that if our women and children have been driven from their homes, to seek hospitality elsewhere, **theirs** also share the same fate. I would not be understood as believing, that our people needlessly complain; they are of that stoical race, for which physical suffering has no terrors, but are jealous of their rights and quick to demand them when withheld; and I am sure, that if you ask anything from the Confederate States, you will ask only for that, which is justly due, and which they are able to pay.

Our late success in this Department seems a prelude to still greater ones and to our complete and undisputed occupation of the Indian Territory. Our troops and their brothers in arms from Texas, had, with one well directed blow, struck the enemy so heavily and inflicted such serious injury upon them, that they, perforce, must have been driven entirely from the Territory, had circumstances allowed us to follow up the great advantage gained. But just at a time, when the routed enemy panic-stricken sought shelter behind their fortifications at Ft. Gibson and Ft. Smith, their trains taken and their supplies cut off, the White Troops, who had so nobly shared with us the trials of the expedition, were suddenly called to some other field of operation. Their force exceeded ours; they had cannon, were well armed and their gallant conduct had won the admiration of us all. Thus was lost, for the present, the opportunity of regaining complete possession of our country. It will be borne in mind that last year, the White Troops were withdrawn from our support, at a time when they were most needed and when much was expected from combined action. It is my opinion that a representation of these facts to the proper authorities may cause the sending here of a force, to remain in the Indian Territory and to act as part of the "Indian Division," not subject to be, at any time, removed from the Territory. Could this addition to our force be made, we might count on speedily driving the enemy from the Territory; if not by taking the posts, at least by taking their trains, cutting off supplies and thus weaken them so that they would be compelled to abandon their posts and leave the Territory. Engaged as we

are, in a cause common to the Confederacy, and to us, we ought not, surely, to refuse giving our aid in any quarter outside the Territory, not too remote. You will remember the efficient aid given last spring by the Choctaws in the State of Arkansas. There, victorious, side by side with the white troops, they received the honor due a brave and efficient soldiery. For a second time during the war, their courage was conspicuous in winning a Battle outside the Territory. The Battle of Newtonia, when they drove before them the enemy's Infantry, will always be remembered with pride, not by the Choctaws alone, but by all their Brother Nations. I would therefore, in this connection, suggest, that we express our willingness to move, whenever and wherever the common cause requires, to any quarter outside the Territory, so that we may give our aid in Battle to those, who, on more than one occasion have, fought side by side with us, upon the soil of the Indians. It is true, that according to treaty, we may not leave the Indian Territory against our will, to meet the enemy. But I feel sure, that the Indian Troops understand too well their duty to their country, to refuse to leave the Territory, whenever occasion may demand it. And it should be borne in mind, that when the Confederate Government promised to protect us, it was supposed to be understood by all, that it would protect us as far as it was able. And it was also supposed, that the word "protection" did not imply, that while their forces were sent to fight in this department, we were not to fight as strenuously as they or that we would slacken our energies in dependence upon them. I am proud to say, that the Indian Troops have never refused to march whenever and wherever ordered; and I feel confident that, should a call come for them to march, to meet the enemy, outside the Territory, at any time the condition of affairs requires it, they will cheerfully do so.

Permit me to urge upon you the necessity of bringing into the Service, every person in the Territory, considered capable of bearing arms. Our cause and justice to those now in arms demand it; demand that we prosecute the war, with that unity of action without which the noblest undertakings fail; and I hold that our unity of action is not complete, so long as some, who should be in the Army, remain out of it. Let us not forget the magnitude of the contest, nor the important results at stake. If we lose, exile and sorrow, or slavery and shame will be ours. If we win, we will dwell as Freemen upon our own soil by the graves of our departed people, but we cannot lose, if we do our whole duty. And how simple appears that duty. Let each man feel, that he is worth something to freedom in this war, that he is a "gain" when he espouses her cause with arms and that he is a "loss," when from selfishness and apathy he shuns the ranks of those who fight for him. Obedience is the whole duty—obedience to the earnest demands of our country. It is imperative alike upon the highest officer and the poorest private,—in the assembly of Council, in the rank of Soldiers and in all Departments of the service. I have hitherto spoken to you of the great results which arise from united and determined action. You may, as I do, in mind, witness such results east of the Father of Waters, in the splendid victories of the Confederate Arms. And think you that they expect less from us, according to our means, than we expect from them, according to theirs?

I believe that in the Indian Territory there is a sufficient number of effective men, to form a force, which, if well armed and equipped, would be equal to the task of success-

fully defending the Territory against a force of the enemy no greater than that, which has occupied it during the present year. Let the increase of our military force, its strength and efficiency, be our first object, and to you, my Friends, the subject now presents itself.

I cannot conclude, without again expressing my gratification at the noble conduct of the Troops of this District. Let them still show themselves worthy the distinction they have won. Let them remember that discipline is obedience and that obedience is the first duty of a Soldier, and that those, who die in a cause like ours never die in vain.

Stand Watie -

*From Ft. Smith Herald, Sept. 30, 1871.

DEATH OF GEN. STAND WATIE.

A Brief History—His Early Life—His Connections—The Boudinot and Ridge Families—Events of His Latter Days.

Dear Sparks:—The St. Louis Republic of the 18th brings us the sad intelligence of the death of Gen Stand Watie, a noble man in every sense of the word, possessing all those qualities that command the respect of the aged, and the reverence of the young. Knowing, sir, the high regard and respect you entertained for him, I, therefore, take the liberty of sending, for publication in the Herald, a brief history of our departed friend, and I hope it may prove interesting to you and to your readers. There, is, perhaps, no man, now living, who is as well acquainted with Gen. Watie, as myself, having been an intimate friend of his for over forty-three years. He was born, about the year 1806, at Oo-yoo-ge-lo-gi, in the old Cherokee Nation, now Georgia. His father was a full-blood Indian, and his mother a half-blood, her father being a white man named Reese—of the family of Reeses, of South Carolina and Georgia. Neither of his parents could speak English. At the time Watie was born there was but little known among the Cherokees in regard to civilization or Christianity, as the only missionary station then in existence, among the Cherokees, was at Spring place, which was established by the Moravians of Salem, North Carolina. It was established in 1800, by Rev. John Gambol, and his wife. Mr. Gambol preached and his wife, who was an extraordinary woman, taught school. It was at this station, that the first Cherokees were baptized as believers in the Christian religion. It is probable that Watie's mother was among the first converts, as she was a member of that church when I first saw her. Her baptismal name was Susanna. At this school were gathered quite a number of Indian boys, who were taught by these good people, among them, John Ridge, Buck Watie—afterwards Elias Boudinot—and others, of which reference will be made hereafter. A few years later another station was established by Father Gambol, at Oo-yoo-gi-lo-gi, near the residence of the Waties and Ridges. It was here that Stand Watie was baptized by the name of "Isaac." Ta-ker-taw-ker, or as interpreted, Stand, was his Indian name, and as he had been called by that name for years before his baptism, he retained the name of Stand Watie.

Gah-li-gi-nah, or Buck Watie, was the eldest son, perhaps two years the senior of Stand. He was taken, with a number of other Cherokee boys from the school of Father Gambol, by

*Through the courtesy of Joseph B. Thorburn, Ethnological Instructor in charge of "Research and Collection, in Local and Western History", University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Elias Cornelius, an agent of the American Board of Foreign Mission, Boston, about the year 1822 or 23, to Cornwall, Conn., to be educated. On their journey, before the age of railroads, the party passed through Princeton, N. J., and here the boys were introduced to the celebrated Dr. Elias Boudinot, of that State. He was so much pleased with young Watie, that he adopted him, and gave him his name—Elias Boudinot. Boudinot and Watie were own brothers, and this will explain the cause of difference of name.

As you are aware, Major, by your knowledge of Indian names, that own brothers scarcely ever had the same name, unless mixed with white blood, and with English names. Maj. Ridge, Oo-wat-tie, or Watie, were own brothers, Gah-na-tah-tle-gi, or one walking on a ridge, was the Indian name of Major Ridge, but he was always called Ridge, and during the Creek war, under Gen. Jackson, Ridge was made a major, and ever after was called Major Ridge. He was the father of John Ridge, who was the schoolmate of Elias Boudinot. Maj. Ridge, John Ridge and Elias Boudinot were killed in 1839, on the same day by assassins sent out by the Ross party. They were all influential and leading men among the Cherokees.

Watie was naturally a silent man—never said much on any subject—and in his habits was retiring, never thrusting himself forward. His life, prior to 1835, was scarcely known publicly, though he held the office of clerk of the National Supreme Court in 1829, yet he made no public character, until after the assassination of the persons above named in 1839. From that date his personal courage was of such a nature, as to gain for him among the civilized world as well as among the Indians, universal respect.

In 1839, immediately after the murder of the Ridges and Boudinot, the Ross party overthrew the government of the "Old Settlers," John Rogers being then the Chief. By the violence of the assassinations and the overrunning of the Nation by companies of armed Indians, the old Chief Rogers, with many of his party, and also a number of the treaty party, were driven into the State of Arkansas, and sought protection under its laws. Watie and Bell headed the treaty party, and had for several months to remain near the State line, or in the State. During these tumultuous times, John Ross was allowed a body guard, which watched his house day and night, for fear of Stand Watie. The guard also attended him wherever he went. The Ross party by their numbers and violence, in 1839, completely overturned the government of the "Old Settlers," which had been in existence for 30 or 40 years, west of the Mississippi river. This was a complete usurpation, by power, of all the rights and privileges of the old-settler government. It was during these days of usurpation, that Watie's character shone so conspicuously. He never wavered for one moment in his opposition to Ross and his party, and was always ready to lay down his life in maintaining his integrity. From this time Watie became the acknowledged leader of the treaty party. True, he was surrounded with such men, as counsellors and advisers, as Jack Bell, Jos. Lynch, Washington Adair and others of like character. Appeals were made by both the old settlers and treaty party to the U. S. Government for protection, which was promised, and John Ross was notified that he must keep his party in certain bounds. Matters for awhile quieted down, and appeared to reign until 1845, when at a general election, in which John Ross and Little Joe

Vann were opposing candidates for Principal Chief there was a fight on or near Grand River, where one or two were killed. This brought out swarms of Ross "Light Horse," or "Knights of Death," as they were termed, and old man West, a white man, was arrested, and after a few weeks, he was tried and hung by the Ross party, in spite of the remonstrance of the U. S. authorities. West belonged to the treaty party, and had no hand in the murders, but was accused of conspiracy. This action, on the party of the Ross party, opened the old sore afresh, and great fear and consternation spread among the anti-Ross men throughout the Nation, as the hanging of old man West could be looked upon in no other light than that of a cold-blooded murder. Old man West married a Starr, a sister of James Starr, who was a prominent treaty man. It was during this commotion, that Tom Starr, and a number of his brothers and cousins, were forced to seek safety in the State and during the fall depredations were committed throughout the Nation, all of which were attributed to Tom Starr. In the fall, the Ross Council met, and as it was alleged, that Jas. Starr was or must be, cognizant of the alleged acts of his sons, a party of armed men left the Council one night, and went to Flint District, to the house of Jas. Starr, and in the morning, as he came into the yard, he was shot down, together with one or two of his children. They killed a young Rider, and others that morning. This filled the whole Cherokee country with fear and consternation, and men, some with their families, and others alone, fled into the State for refuge, as the general belief was that an indiscriminate slaughter of the treaty party was to take place. Stand Watie was then living on Honey Creek, in the Nation, near the southwest corner of Missouri, and finding such a state of excitement and fear existing among his followers, in November or December he gathered a large party of men, took possession of Fort Wayne, near Maysville, which had been abandoned by the U. S. troops. Here was his first experience as a soldier. He organized a small army, and prepared to defend himself. The Ross party was in council, and some feared an attack from Watie, and armed "Light Horse" scoured all the districts in the lower part of the Nation. Mr. Polk was then President of the United States, and the "Old Settler" Chief John Rogers, with "Dutch," the celebrated warrior, and a few others, were in Washington, importuning the government for redress. Things in the Nation continued in a very excited condition, until about Christmas, and the leaders of the treaty party became convinced that it was impossible for the three parties to live longer in peace together in the same country, and upon consultation, the treaty party counselled the party to meet at Fort Wayne some time in January, 1846. The council was held and a delegation was appointed, consisting of Stand Watie, Jack Bell, Washington Adair, Ezekiel Starr, Jos. Lynch and Brice Martin, with Judge Paschal,* as their attorney, with instructions to get the government to divide the country, and run a line between the two parties, giving to each one land in proportion to the number of each party. About February the delegation started for Washington and arrived there in March. The "Old Settler" delegation was already in Washington. Soon after the arrival of the treaty party delegates, a formal visit was made to the President, Secretary of War, and the Indian Commissioner. President Polk expressed sympathy with the sufferings of the treaty party, said that he would, by a special message to Congress, recommend a division of the Cherokee country. The Old Settlers agreed with the treaty party to

*Judge Paschal had married a sister of Major Ridge.

make common cause against John Ross and his adherents. The Ross delegation arrived in a short time, and thus, were three delegations from the Cherokee Nation present in Washington, each representing separate interests. The President, according to promise, sent a special message on Cherokee affairs, and recommended that, as disturbances were constantly occurring there, that the country be divided, Col. Sevier, chairman of the committee on Indian affairs in the Senate, favored the plan and the House committee made a report, and offered a bill to carry out the President's views. This alarmed the Ross party, and they forthwith dispatched a messenger for Capt. Armstrong, Superintendent west, so as to prevent a division of the country. In the meantime the Mexican war broke out, which engaged the mind of the President and Congress to such a degree that little attention was paid for a time to Indian affairs. Capt. Armstrong, also arrived, who utterly repudiated the idea of a division of the Cherokee country. The bill for the division of the country, being submitted to the old settler delegation, did not meet their wishes, and the treaty party seemed to stand alone. Jack Bell, a man of a great deal of sagacity and a bright intellect, called the delegates of the treaty party together, a consultation was had, and after some overtures and conferences, a basis for a reconciliation was agreed upon by John Ross and his delegation, and a time of meeting agreed upon, when both delegations should meet and discuss the provision of a treaty. The preliminaries were all arranged, and the meeting took place, and here for the first time in over seven years did Stand Watie and John Ross meet and shake hands. The President appointed Capt. Wm. Armstrong, and Edward Burke commissioners, and after several days of discussion, by the lawyers of the three parties, the treaty of 1846 was signed—granting universal amnesty to all, and providing for universal peace among the Cherokees. Watie was the prominent man in bringing about a reconciliation for the benefit of his people, which they had not enjoyed for nearly eight years. It was a great sacrifice on Watie's part, after suffering so much for years at the hands of the Ross party, for him to agree to bury the tomahawk. He conversed freely with me every day upon the step he had taken, as being a sacrifice of his own feelings for the peace and tranquility of his people. Provision was made in the treaty for the payment of a large sum of money, to be distributed per capita to each member of the three parties. After the ratification of the treaty, the delegates returned home, and peace once more reigned in the Cherokee Nation.

Watie retired to his farm on Honey Creek, where in the course of a few years he accumulated a large amount of property. He was elected to the General Council for two or three terms, and was universally loved and esteemed by his neighbors.

Peace and prosperity were enjoyed by the people of the Cherokee Nation for a number of years, and all seemed to prosper. About the year 1858 or '59, a secret organization was discovered in the Cherokee Nation, principally among the full-bloods, known as the "Pin Indians," which created some apprehension among the half-bloods. The war between the States broke out in 1861, which spread even among the Indians to a considerable extent. In the summer of 1861, Watie raised a regiment of Cherokees for the Confederate service, and E. C. Boudinot was the Major of it. With it Watie performed great service, on the frontier. His soldiers loved him, and his word was law with them. He espoused the cause of the South, and remained so until the surrender, and through-

out all of its vicissitudes, he never faltered. He was in the battle of Pea Ridge, or Elk Horn, where he fought with great bravery. He was in many a hard fought battle during the war, in which he always distinguished himself for his cool and unflinching courage. In many raids he distinguished himself. In 1863 he was appointed Brigadier General. Watie, though an Indian, was one of the most humane of men, and no prisoner taken by him ever was maltreated. During the war he suffered great hardships and privations, by exposure, and a want of sufficient provisions for his men, and no doubt his life was in a measure, shortened by the hardships he had to endure during the war. His brigade was kept for most of the war in the Indian Country, and as Ross, and the Pin Indians, had deserted the Confederates in 1862-3, the conflicts and battles mostly were fought between the two parties of the Cherokees, their country was laid waste, and almost became a "howling wilderness." I cannot follow Watie through all of his battles during the war, because of not being near during that eventful period. Indeed, it is not necessary, as his acts stand out in bold relief and are too well known for me to speak of them, because he gained the respect of the officers of the Federal Army, and this of itself gives to his name a character and standing that my feeble pen cannot add to. Suffice it to say, that, at the end of the war, it found Gen. Watie, a very poor man, without a habitable home and without money.

When the Grand Council of the Indians and the U. S. Commissioners was held at this place in September, 1865, Gen. Watie attended. He was received by the Commissioners with great respect, and treated as a worthy man, while John Ross, by his duplicity during the war, though, in the latter part of it he sided with the Union, was condemned. There was a marked contrast, manifested by the U. S. Commissioners, towards those two men, who had been at the head of two great parties of the Cherokee Nation—a respect for honesty, and a hatred for duplicity. Gen Watie was one of the delegates to Washington, on the part of the Southern Cherokees, in 1865-6. He took with him his beloved son, Saladin, who was about 20 years of age, and who had been with him during the whole war, and was one of his aids, John C. Wheeler, his nephew, being the senior aid. In the treaty of 1866, Watie secured great privileges to the Southern Cherokees. His family during his absence remained on Red River in the Choctaw country, and on his return, he moved into the Cherokee country. Saladin, his son, settled near the mouth of the Canadian, and seemed to prosper in all of his business, being a very intelligent and energetic young man, when, in the midst of his labors in the winter of 1867, he was suddenly taken sick and died. This was too severe a shock for the aged nerves of the old General, whose hopes centered in his son. Soon after this, he was again called upon to bury his last and only son, who died while at school at Cane Hill, 75 miles from home. Gen Watie was a man endowed with uncommon fortitude; but undoubtedly the loss of these, his only sons, bore heavily on his mind, and gave him but little desire for a continuance of life. For the last two years he exposed himself in purchasing cattle, and in attempting to do more than his worn out frame would endure. He was trying to fit up his old home on Honey Creek, where, before the war, he spent so many happy hours, in the bosom of his own family, where by the radiance of his ever smiling countenance, like the sun, it made all around happy and cheerful. He was never known to speak an unkind word to his wife or his children. He was never morose under any circum-

stances, and was kind to a fault. His house was the home of every Cherokee, and hospitality was a characteristic of his nature. He was very reticent to those who did not know him, but to those with whom he was acquainted, was free and cheerful in conversation—but always spoke to the point—with a clear head and sound judgment. His ideas were generally correct on all subjects, as he was a man that had read a great deal, being well acquainted with history. There never lived a better man than Stand Watie. He has gone to his rest, for we learn that he died on the 2nd of this month, on Honey Creek, in the Cherokee Nation. "He rests from his labors, and his works do follow him."

I am,

JOHN F. WHEELER.

NOTE.—Maj. Ridge and his son, John Ridge, were natural orators. Elias Boudinot was an able writer, and edited the Cherokee Phoenix for a number of years. Boudinot married Miss Harriet Gould, of Norwich, Conn., and John Ridge married Miss Sarah Northup, of Massachusetts.

This transcript from the Herald, was written by Judge John F. Wheeler. Judge Wheeler was one of the first men to ever set Cherokee type, going to New Echota, Ga., when a young man. He worked in the office of the Cherokee Phoenix when Elias Boudinot was editor. He married Nancy Watie, a sister of Gen. Watie, and removed West in 1836, after having suffered many persecutions at the hands of the Georgia authorities. Judge Wheeler was for many years a prominent citizen of Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

TRIBUTES SENT BY VETERANS.

Mrs. Mabel W. Anderson,
Pryor, Okla.

Dear Friend:—Brother B. F. Rogers has shown me a letter from you in which you ask me for a brief testimonial to the excellent life and character of your distinguished kinsman, General Stand Watie.

The enclosed is a very brief and a very poor tribute to that great and good man, but I am old and feeble, nearly eighty years old, and my brain and pen have lost their cunning. Please, if you regard this as unworthy to be printed in your book, do not hesitate to consign it to the waste basket.

American History has done the Indian race, in America, scant justice by inscribing upon its pages tributes of testimony to so very few of the many Indian men and women who have been distinguished for greatness of life and character.

There are scores and hundreds of others whose lives of excellence and of usefulness to the White race, have deserved to be recorded on the pages of American History, but prejudice and neglect have consigned them to oblivion.

I am very glad that Mrs. Mabel Anderson, a Cherokee woman, has determined to rescue one of her nation's great men from the shades of forgetfulness. I have been a missionary among the Indians of these Five Civilized Tribes, for over fifty-seven years, and, hence, was in the old Indian Territory all the years of the Civil war. I was well acquainted with General Stand Watie, as a civilian and as a soldier, and it affords me great pleasure to testify to his merits and excellence of life and character in every relation of life. During the war he was brave and fearless, a just and wise officer, a tactful commander. He enjoyed the entire confidence of the Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws and Seminoles, as well as his own Cherokees, all of whom were under his command. In private life

he was a friend to everybody. He was just and generous in his dealings with all men. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father, esteemed and loved by everybody. General Watie was indeed a great and good man.

Sincerely yours,

J. S. MURROW,

Missionary among Indians 57 years.

Under God's Direction, Founder of Murrow Indian Orphans' Home.

Atoka, Oklahoma, Nov. 30, 1914.

Rev. Mr. Murrow was General Chaplain in the Confederate Army, Indian Territory.

Mrs. Mabel Anderson,
Pryor, Okla.

My Dear Mrs. Anderson:—It affords me real pleasure to learn that you, a lineal descendant of the renowned General Stand Watie, have arisen among us to give to our people and future generations, a written "Life History" of the General, who, in my humble estimation, was pre-eminently the noblest of all the Indians, who served the Confederate cause in the late war between the States.

In those tumultuous days of strife and belligerency, his indomitable energy and activities kept his name always conspicuously in the glare of the lime light of the operations of our "Border Warfare." Thus furnishing to the enemy the one name most dreaded of all the Confederate forces of our section of the country, during the war. He pursued the policy of striking the enemy whenever and wherever opportunity offered; and his intimate knowledge of the country in which he operated, enabled him with such consummate skill to deliver blows with such surprising celerity in quick succession on the enemy, at unexpected points, that the suspicion was aroused among the superstitious Indians, operating on the side of the enemy, that his movements were largely the result of the occult powers of wizardry which they thought he must surely possess. It became my duty, on at least four occasions as I now recall, to participate with my men directly with him and his immediate command on the field of action, and hence know somewhat whereof I write. As to the general character of General Watie, his patriotism, his devotion to duty, his disregard of physical obstacles, to his military movements, his ever-present courage and unperturbed calmness of demeanor in the presence of tumult and dangers, require no eulogism from me. These were attributes of his great character easily conceded by all who knew the man, and it affords me pleasure to emphasize this. Another instance of gratification to me, is, to testify to the confident feeling of optimistic expencancy, which his presence, about an active firing line, always inspired in the boys that fired the guns. **"We would win out because we had Watie with us."** Let me say here: that whatever else the Indians, of old Indian Territory, may lose in the shock and crash of time, be it property, land or name; let it be so provided now, in stone and story that the name of General Stand Watie may never fade away. Let his memory and fame stand forth proud monuments to the virtues of patriotism and devotion to duty as exemplified in his life, as long as grass grows and flowers bloom.

As the beautiful springtime shall recur with its joyous birds of song, and flowers of beauty and perfume, let all Indians, where it is possible, repair to the last resting place of

our dead hero, and strew thereon floral tributes, betokening that although dead, he is still alive in the hearts of his countrymen.

Let our young people, in the generations to come, read his life, emulate his virtues, and be proud to publish to the world under any and all circumstances, that they too are North American Indians of the Southland.

I have the honor to be, Sincerely,
Eufaula, Okla., Apr. 1, 1915. G. W. GRAYSON.

George W. Grayson was Captain in the Second Creek Regiment. Capt. Grayson is writing an interesting history of the Creeks.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL STAND WATIE BY "BLACK FOX".

One who knew him personally and followed him through many places and under many circumstances that tried men's souls. Marshal Ney was said to be "the bravest of the brave" but I am here to say that he had no honor, in that line, above Stand Watie. He was always in the thickest of the fight and never to my knowledge did he ever receive a scratch or a wound. It was believed by the "Pins" and superstitious full-bloods that he bore a charmed life. That a little miniature "monitor", invisible to others, always went before him and led him out of danger. A man of ordinary education but deeply endowed with sound natural sense, and a great and discriminate reader, pleasant and kind in conversation, unselfish and liberal to a fault, never severe or over-bearing with his soldiers, but always overlooked their short comings and seldom ever had them punished, causing them all to love and honor him.

It was sometime in the spring of '64 that he received his "Commission as a Brigadier General signed by Jefferson Davis", the only Indian who ever held such a commission. I well remember that day. We were encamped on Lime Stone Prairie, Choctaw Nation, and that night both the 1st and 2nd Cherokee Regiments formed out with fife and drum and marched round and round his tent whooping and cheering until our throats were sore. No soldier, of the late war between the North and South, is more deserving of a fit monument to perpetuate his memory than our brave and beloved Stand Watie. Webber Falls, Okla., Jan. 5th, 1915. ROBERT T. HANKS.

I served in General Stand Watie's command during the Civil War. He was an exceptionally brave man and was entirely devoted to the cause. He was always with his troops sharing all the hardships with his soldiers and was not hunting for any easy places, but his main object was for the cause. Chouteau, Okla., Dec. 3, 1914. RILEY W. LINDSEY,

Brigadier General Cherokee Brigade U. C. V.

Dear Mrs. Anderson:—I understand you are writing the "Life of General Watie". I have long wished some one would give his noble record to the public. I followed "The Grand Old Man" from the beginning of our terrible struggle to the end. I cannot express, in so many words, the honor and admiration I felt for him. I hope to live to see a grand monument to his memory.

Respectfully,
Cleveland, Okla., Apr. 4, 1915. JOHN W. JORDAN.

As one of General Stand Watie's veteran soldiers I desire to pay this brief tribute to his memory. I followed his flag from the beginning of his military career to the end of the same. Was in all of the battles and skirmishes with him except Wilson Creek, Mo. He was a great soldier, a man of untiring energy and endurance. Most of the time contending against great odds in numbers. He was ever alert and quick to perceive the weak places in the enemy's line and was ready to take advantage of same and strike them a blow where they least expected it. He was brave and courageous in action and

his men had unbounded confidence in his judgment and leadership.

TIP MAYES.

"Tip" Postoffice, Okla., May 5, 1915.

I regard General Stand Watie as a most remarkable man both as a statesman and a soldier. He was a lawyer of great ability, a leader in the Councils of the Cherokees, firm and unyielding in his convictions of right; he was a great leader of men.

In my opinion he was the greatest Indian soldier produced by the War between the States, a man of unquestioned bravery. He planned his raids, battles and skirmishes with great precision and forethought and executed them without fear or favor.

I would be glad to see the Oklahoma Division U. D. C. honor this great and good hero with a monument worthy of his name.

S. H. MAYES.

Pryor, Okla., May 6, 1915.

Hon. S. H. Mayes has been prominent in the politics of his people for the most of his life, serving them as Principal Chief and in many other public positions.

At the age of sixteen years I joined General Stand Watie's Command and served under him until the close of the War between the States. I was with him at Pea Ridge, Cabin Creek, Honey Springs and other battles. He was a great man and a brave soldier. On going into battle he always said "Come boys". He never said "Go boys", but always "led" and we were always glad and willing to follow.

D. W. VANN.

Pryor, Okla. May 9, 1915.



A Roster of the Surviving Officers and Soldiers of Stand Watie's Brigade

Compiled 1908 by Judge J. M. Keys, of Pryor, Okla.

1st Cherokee Regiment.

Adair, Mont, company G.	-	-	-	Stillwell,	Okla.	Dead
Adair, J. B.	"	"	-	Sallisaw,	"	
Adair, Oscar F.	"	"	-	"	"	
Agnew, Walter	"	"	-	Muskogee	"	
Alberty, Andy	"	"	-	Stillwell	"	
Bell, J. M., Colonel	-	-	-	Vinita	"	Dead
Bell, L. B., Capt. Aide de camp	Gen Waite			Vinita	"	Dead
Baugh, J. H.	-	-	-	Muskogee	"	Dead
Burgess, J. B.	-	-	-	Claremore	"	Dead
Byers, Nick company G.	-	-	-	Stillwell,	"	Dead
Brown, J. L.	C.	-	-	Muskogee	"	
Ballard, William,	-	-	-	Echo,	"	
Bean, John, company G.	-	-	-	Kilgore, Texas.		
Beck, Dave,	-	-	-	Chelsea, Okla.		Dead
Burgess, J. W.	-	-	-	Dallas, Texas.		Dead

1st Cherokee Regiment—Second Organization

Covel, J. H., company G.	-	-	-	Tahlequah, Okla,		Dead
Countryman, John, company A.	-	-	-	Afton,	"	Dead
Countryman, Geo	"	"	"	"	"	
Conners, Caleb,	-	-	-	Fairland	"	Dead
Candy, Samuel	company B.	-	-	Claremore	"	
Cunningham, Jeater 1st Lieut.	company A.	-	-	Tahlequah	"	Dead
Carey, Edmond	company C	-	-	Echo	"	
Coats, Henry	company A	-	-	Gravette, Ark.		Dead
Copeland, Alex	-	-	-	Grove, Okla.		
Crittenden, George	company G.	-	-	Westville	"	Dead
Chandler, Pink	-	-	-	Flint.	"	Dead
Chandler, Jim	-	-	-	Westville,	"	Dead
Choate, G. W.	-	-	-	Marble,	"	Dead
Corderay, Tom	company G	-	-	Muskogee,	"	Dead
Chambers L. D.	-	-	-	McKee,	"	Dead
Comeing, Wilson	-	-	-	"	"	Dead
Caywood, Tom	company A.	-	-	Mayesville, Ark.		Dead
Corn Tassell, John	-	-	-	Vinita, Okla.		
Davis, W. H. L.	company G.	-	-	Stillwell, Okla,		
Daniel, John	-	-	-	Vinita,	"	
Daniel, Marma	-	-	-	Vinita,	"	
Dannenberg, J. H.	company G.	-	-	Stillwell,	"	Dead
Dannenberg, William	company G.	-	-	"	"	
Downing, Dave	-	-	-	Texanna,	"	Dead
Davis, David	company A.	-	-	Hulbert,	"	
Eubanks, William	-	-	-	Tahlequah	"	
Elders, George	-	-	-	Braggs	"	Dead
Faulker, David	company I	-	-	Hanson	"	Dead
Faulkner, John	company I	-	-	Muldrow,	"	Dead
Fields, Bud	-	-	-	Southwest City.	Mo.	
Fields, George	-	-	-	"	"	
Fargo, Charles	company I	-	-	Muldrow, Okla.		
Foreman, John A.	-	-	-	Roswell, N. M.		
Frye, William	-	-	-	Claremore,	Okla.	
Francis, Robert,	company A.	-	-	Unknown		
Goss, Benj. company G	-	-	-	Stillwell, Okla.		Dead
Gott, William	company G.	-	-	"	"	Dead
Gunter, John	company I.	-	-	Muldrow,	"	
Hanks, Robt	-	-	-	Webbers Falls,	Okla.	

Hizer, Jacob	-	-	-	Afton,	"
Howell, William	-	-	-	"	"
Hastings, Yell, company A.	-	-	-	Mayesville, Ark.	
Hayden, Clem company A.	-	-	-	Choteau, Okla.	
Grey, Tom	-	-	-	Texacanna, Ark.	
Jordon, J. W.	-	-	-	Cleveland, Okla.	
Johnson, John	-	-	-	Pawhuska, "	
First Organization					
Keys James M. company C.	-	-	-	Pryor,	"
Keys, Samuel	-	-	-	Checotah,	" Dead
Lindsey, R. W. major 2nd Cherokee Regt	-	-	-	Choteau, Okla.	
1st Cherokee Regiment					
Lewis, Gatts company G.	-	-	-	Westville,	"
Linder, John company C.	-	-	-	Hulbert,	" Dead
Latta, Diver	-	-	-	Warner,	"
McClelland, Charles	-	-	-	Blackwell,	"
Martin, Richard	-	-	-	Greenbriar,	" dead
Morgan, James	-	-	-	Warner,	"
Morgan, Lone	-	-	-	"	"
Martin, Alex	-	-	-	Pawhuska,	"
Morgan, Taileh	-	-	-	Eureka	"
Mayes, W. H. 2nd Lieut. Co. G, 1st Cher.	-	-	-	Pryor	"
Mayes, S. H. Co. K. 1st Cherokee regt.	-	-	-	"	"
Miller, John	-	-	-	Afton	"
McPherson, John Co. G	"	"	"	Stillwell,	"
McDaniel, Tom	"	"	"	Muskogee	"
McGhee, Tom	-	-	-	Kinnison	"
McGhee, Dave	-	-	-	Southwest City, Mo	
McLaughlin, Zeke	-	-	-	Ardmore, Okla.	dead
Markham, C. D.	-	-	-	Tahlequah	"
Mann, Robert Co G	"	"	"	Kansas	"
McCorkle, J. B.	-	-	-	Webbers Falls	
Overstreet, John	-	-	-	address unknown	
Pettit, Worcester	-	-	-	Pawhuska, Okla	
Paden, Taylor Co. G 1st Cher.	-	-	-	Stillwell	dead
Paden, Ben F.	"	"	"	"	"
Patrick, John	"	C	"	Braggs	"
Preston, C. H.	-	-	-	Fairland	"
Pettit, Frank	"	C	"	Edna, Kans.	
Pack, Shorey	"	I	"	Muldrow, Okla.,	dead
Rogers, C. V. 1st Lieut. Co. G	-	-	-	Claremore,	dead
Rogers, Antwine	-	-	-	Winona	"
Rowe, James	-	-	-	Rose	"
Reece, Roddy	-	-	-	Manard	"
Smith Frank Co. C 1st Chero. regt.	-	-	-	Braggs	"
Smith, McCoy	-	-	-	"	dead
Smith, Lem	-	-	-	address unknown	
Smith, Tom	"	"	"	Peggs, Okla	dead
Sanders, Geo O.	-	-	-	Wauhilleau	dead
Sandens, Sam	-	-	-	Wauhilleau	"
Sanders, Ike	-	-	-	Marble	"
Silk, Levi	-	-	-	Claremore	dead
Suwakie, Stand "A	"	"	"	Coffeyville, Kans.	dead
Smith, John	-	-	-	Owassa, Okla	
Tehee, Daniel	-	-	-	Mark	dead
Tehee, John	-	-	-	Tahlequah	dead
Tittle, James	-	-	-	Vinita	
Tinnin James Co. A 1st Cher. regt	-	-	-	Mayesville Ark.	dead
Thomas Nick	-	-	-	Vinita Okla.	
Thompson Joe major	"	"	"	Tahlequah	
Trout George	-	-	-	Big Cabin	
Trott William G	"	"	"	Vinita	
Tyner Reubin	-	-	-	Vera	
Vann D. W. D	"	"	"	Pryor. Okla.	
Vann William C	"	"	"	Webbers Falls	dead

Vann Joe	-	-	-	Leach	
Wheeler William	-	-	-	Sallisaw	dead
West John	C	"	"	Muskogee	
Wright Caleb	-	-	-	Tahlequah	
Waters George	-	-	-	Vian	
Ware Webster	-	-	-	Vinita	
West John	C	"	"	Spavinaw	
Yost James	-	-	-	Ketchum	
Yeargain James	A	-	-	Mayesville Ark.	



PERSONAL SKETCHES.



RIEF mention of each soldier in General Stand Watie's Cherokee Regiment would gladly have been made in this little volume had facts been available for we find among them many a familiar Cherokee name of men in military rank, who were prominent in profession and affairs of state and many a private soldier did great service for his country whose name and deeds of heroism will never be given to history. The following facts have been obtained, concerning Cherokee soldiers, both living and dead, who fought under Watie:

Thomas Fox Taylor, Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Cherokee Regiment, was an efficient lawyer and a fluent interpreter of the Cherokee language. He was killed while leading his men to battle at Bayou Manard, near old Ft. Gibson, in 1862. He was succeeded by R. C. Parks, a brave soldier who lost his life in a private difficulty at Ft. Wichita in 1864.

Elias Cornelius Boudinot, before referred to, was Major in General Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment and served under him during the entire war. He was born in the old Cherokee Nation, in Georgia, and was the son of "Buck" Watie and nephew of General Watie. He was among the first, after the murder of his kinsmen, to advocate "allotment".* For this and other advanced ideas which caused continual threats against his life he was absent for many years from the Cherokee Nation, during which time he made his home in Washington, D. C., where he was well and favorably known. He was a man of broad education and versatile attainments. He died in 1890.

Wm. Penn Adair was Colonel of the 2nd Cherokee Regiment and was in active service during the four years of the war. He was a handsome man of genial disposition and was a warm personal friend of E. C. Boudinot. Both these men possessed unusually attractive personalities and made many friends. Colonel Adair was a well known and able statesman and represented his people frequently before Congress, doubtless for a longer term of years than any other delegate.

Colonel James M. Bell, whose death occurred as this little booklet was nearing completion, served, as we have said, side

*The Treaty or Ridge Party, after their removal West had ever stood for "Allotment of their lands in severalty" and many a prominent Cherokee citizen was exiled for years or traveled in his own country under guard for fear of ambush, because he stood for this principle. History has proven, that had this advanced idea of the few, been the consent of the masses the Cherokees would today be a richer, as well as, a wiser people.

by side with Stand Watie throughout the war. He was a brother of Jack Bell, a prominent man among the early Cherokees. He was a soldier ever ready for duty, a man whose high principles and Christian character won the respect of all who knew him. Colonel Bell, though in the thick of every battle, never received a wound. He always, jestingly, claimed that he attributed his good fortune, in this respect, to the old Cherokee who gave him his own name, and claimed to have "conjured" him by dipping him seven times, at the age of seven days, in the Coo-see-wa-tee stream, in the old Nation in Georgia. Colonel Bell could tell many interesting stories of the early days and despite his eighty-seven years his memory was clear and he seldom made the slightest error as to data or facts.

Joel B. Mayes, said to have been the best beloved Chief of the Cherokees, who died in his second term of office, as Principal Chief, served under Watie during the war. First as a Battalion Quarter Master, then Regimental Quarter Master and finally as Brigadier Quarter Master. He was among the first graduates of the old Cherokee National Male Seminary at Tahlequah.

Captain Benj. F. Carter of Company "K", 2nd Cherokee Regiment, a brave soldier under Watie, well known and well beloved, was also a graduate of the Male Seminary and a classmate of Joel B. Mayes. He was the father of Charles F. Carter, Congressman from Oklahoma.

Another graduate of the old National Male Seminary, who served in Watie's regiment, was the brave young Cherokee, Moses Frye. He was said to have been an ideal soldier, fearless and faithful, rising to the rank of major, for bravery on the battlefield. He was an especially warm, personal friend of General Watie.

Captain Charles Watie, Adjutant in Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment, was a brother of General Watie, a man of education and of great common sense. Polish of manner and courtesy were said to have been a part of his "religion". He faithfully served throughout the war and his courage and bravery, it is said, were second only to that of General Watie himself. At one time he was assistant editor of the Grass Valley (Cal.) Journal when John Rollin Ridge,* the Cherokee poet, was editor.

Captain William Watie Wheeler, who died, recently, at his home in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, was a son of Judge John F. Wheeler, and nephew of General Watie. He served bravely in Watie's command during the war and was one of his body guards.

The dauntless Captain Buzzard, the full-blood Cherokee Captain of Company "A", Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment, was a capable and loyal officer and soldier. Those who were his comrades in battle, say he should have been called "Eagle" because of his fearlessness. He is said to have been slain at the battle of Ft. Gibson.

Major John F. Vann, one of Watie's gallant soldiers, who resided at Webbers Falls prior to the war, was made Captain of a company for bravery on the battle field and was afterward Major of the 2nd Cherokee Cavalry. He was wounded in the Cabin Creek battle.

Another gallant soldier who cast his destiny with that of Watie was Major Joseph Scales. At the close of the war he was one of the delegates to Washington representing the Cherokees. He was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation for a number of years.

*Son of John Ridge.

Captain O. H. P. Brewer, of whom mention has been made, was with Watie all through the war. He was an ideal soldier and was later made Lieutenant Colonel of the 2nd Cherokee Regiment. Captain Brewer was the father of O. H. P. Brewer, Jr., who for some time was a member of the Cherokee Board of Education and is present postmaster at Muskogee.

Lucien B. Bell, familiarly known as "Hoolie" Bell, served in the Confederate Army on Watie's staff and his record was one of which to be proud. He was a son of Jack Bell, and was born in the old Cherokee Nation in Georgia. He played a

Herman Ridge, son of John Ridge, was a member of Company "D", Watie's 1st Cherokee Regiment, and was among the first, of this regiment, to give up his life. He was slain in a skirmish at Honey Creek and sleeps in an unknown grave.

prominent part in the history of the Cherokees being an influential man in their councils. A lawyer by profession he was sent, by his Nation, many times to Washington in the interests of his people.

He was generous and charitable in an unostentitious way. His counsel as a legal adviser was sought by many of the full-bloods and no fee was ever demanded of them and none were ever turned away. He died February, 1915.

Among the brave white men, who were members of Watie's Brigade was Colonel Joel M. Bryan, who at the beginning of the war raised a battalion of white men and Cherokees and was commander of the same. He was a true and tried soldier and an efficient officer. He represented the Western Cherokees for years in Washington and finally succeeded in obtaining the monies due the "Old Settlers."

Other men from other States who did valiant service for the South in Watie's Brigade were: Major Harland and Hardin, Captains Tinnin, Ackridge, Steward and Shannon.

Henry Washbourne, from Arkansaw, son of Dr. Cephas Washbourne, early Missionary to the Cherokees, was a member of Watie's Indian Brigade. He was First Lieutenant Company "B" Battalion Seminole Mounted Volunteers, and was killed in the Seminole Nation and sleeps where he fell, like many another soldier of the South, in a grave unmarked and unknown. His brother, Major J. Woodward Washbourne, enlisted at the very beginning of the war in the Confederate troops of Arkansaw and served until its close. He was United States Indian Agent for the Seminoles at the beginning of the war and editor of "The Arkansian" of Fayetteville, Arkansaw. He married a daughter of John Ridge, and is said to have been associated with Watie's Brigade at the close of the war. Any information regarding his military services in the Indian Territory will be gladly received by the author.

Of General Watie's Regimental Officers, so far as known, only two are living today. Major Joseph F. Thompson, of Tahlequah, Okla., for many years Superintendent of the Cherokee Orphan Asylum. He rose from a private soldier in the Arkansaw State service to that of Captain in the 1st Cherokee Cavalry and was subsequently made Major for meritorious service on the battlefield.

The other, Major Riley W. Lindsey of Chouteau, Okla., Watie's 2nd Cherokee Regiment. He had seen military service prior to 1861, being with the brave Missourians who put John Brown and his men to flight at Os-a-wat-omie, Kansas. He was Adjutant of the 2nd Cherokee Regiment with rank of Major. He was a brave and aggressive soldier and a capable officer. He is "Brigadier General of the Cherokee Brigade, United Confederate Veterans" and is present at almost every state

"Reunion" and the flash of his eye is as keen and his love for the "Cause" as great as it was some fifty years ago.

There are scores of other men in Watie's Cherokee Regiment and Indian Brigade of whom praiseworthy tributes could be given had the material been accessible.

At the request of the author this brief picture from memory, is given by Judge J. M. Keys of Pryor Oklahoma, as a tribute to General Watie and his men:

Looking backward down the corridor of time through the dim vista of more than half a century of departed years, I see again the warlike spirit of the Southern Cherokees, from the years 1861 to 1865. I hear again the blast of "Dutch Billy's" bugle. I see the muster, the march and the encounter. I see the brave and fearless General Stand Watie, as Colonel of the Famous 1st Cherokee Cavalry as he directs and leads his victorious charge at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. I see Colonel William Penn Adair, with his long flowing black hair on the bloody field of Wilson Creek, Missouri. I also see that other gallant soldier and brilliant statesman, Elias C. Boudinot, on this same field with his long black hair floating on the breeze as we charged to victory. I see Colonel James M. Bell, as he bravely led his men to victory at Mazzard Prairie, Arkansas. I see Colonel Thomas Fox Taylor with his dark waving plume as he selects his own kith and kin to check the Federal advance at the Ford of Spavinaw, near General Watie's Mill. I see that fearless soldier, Colonel Robert C. Parks, as he defeats a Federal force with artillery, on Greenleaf Prairie near Braggs; a deep ravine alone, saved the Federal battery from the onward and victorious rush of Parks and his men. I see Colonel O. H. P. Brewer, then a Captain, as he drove the Federal picket into the fortifications at old Ft. Gibson, and rounded up the vast herd of horses and mules, and drove them south of the Arkansas River. I see Major Joel M. Bryan as he charged the Federals at Short Creek, Missouri, and drove them into the timber. I see Colonel C. N. Vann, as he charged the negroes, at Negro Creek, almost annihilating them. I see Major John S. Vann, at Cabin Creek, that brave and aggressive soldier. I see that valiant young soldier Major Moses Frye, ever ready to answer to the call of duty. I see Major Joseph L. Thompson in many battles and skirmishes, always displaying the highest qualities of a soldier. I see that daring soldier, Major R. W. Lindsey at the battle of Honey Springs take his battery across Elk Creek Bridge amid the storm of shot and shell and roar and din of the conflict. I see Major Howland hold the bridge across Elk Creek at Honey Springs against superior numbers until the Federals were about to envelope him and his command. I see Major Joseph A. Scales, as he leads the Confederate advance above the Webber Falls, that resulted in the capture of a train. I see Captains C. V. Rogers and J. G. Schrimsher as they pilot the victorious forces of McIntosh and Watie at Hominy Creek. I see hundreds of brave men, Indians and whites, too numerous to mention in this brief sketch, who followed the flag and leadership of the matchless General Stand Watie. Less than one hundred of General Watie's Brigade have withstood the ravages of time. Feeble, aged and gray they will soon be gone to live only in story and song. They are waiting for the Master's Call to cross the dark mysterious river, separating Life from Death, to be with Lee and Jackson, Price and McCulloch, Cooper and our own beloved Stand Watie. I herto append a partial list of the Cherokee families of which some member or members were killed, wounded or captured during the War between the States:

- A. Adair, Alberty, Agnew, Aikin.
- B. Bell, Boudinot, Buffington, Benge, Brown, Buzzard, Beaty,
Brewer, Beck, Be Vert, Bean, Blackstone, Bush.
- C. Carter, Chambers, Coody, Corderay, Campbell, Candy,
Crittenden, Carey, Coker.
- D. Drew, Downing, Daniels, Davis.
- E. Elliott, England.
- F. Fields, French, Foreman, Frye, Foster, Fike.
- G. Gunter, Griffin, Gott.
- H. Harris, Holt, Hickey, Harlin, Hilderbrand, Hubbard, How-
land.
- I.
- J. Johnson, Jordan.
- K. Keys, Kell.
- L. Lowery, Lynch, Linder, Lipe, Lassley, Landrum.
- M. Mayes, Morgan, Moore, McNair, McGhee, Miller, Martin,
McLaughlin, McCay, Mann, Monroe, McDaniels, Mackey,
McPherson.
- N. Nevins, Noisey Water.
- O. Oldfields, Odrum.
- P. Parks, Parris, Pettit, Price, Picket.
- Q.
- R. Ridge, Riley, Ragsdale, Rogers.
- S. Smith, Suawa-kie, Sanders, Shaw, Seabolt, Starr, Shipley,
Scraper.
- T. Taylor, Timpson, Tyner, Thomas, Trott, Tucker.
- U. Usery.
- V. Vann.
- W. West, Wright, Washbourne, Woodall, Wommock (artillery
man).





Mayer County Republican
Pryor, Oklahoma

